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THE

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STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

NUMBER NINE.

WE beg to introduce to our readers the first page of our ninth volume,—rect., black imp. on white, and differing only in detail from the previous emission. We trust, however, that, plain and devoid of ornament though it may be, our readers will be pleased with it, and that those amongst them who are not subscribers will become so, in order that they may possess an *unused* copy. We had thought of making some change in the outward appearance of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* on this occasion; but after-consideration decided us not to put a new face to what we trust has become to many collectors an old friend. Perhaps, in a year or two, such change may become a necessity, in which case we should invite our subscribers to favour us with designs for a title-page to supersede Mulready's familiar groups of figures; and render our acknowledgments to the author of the most suitable device by the aid of some rare old stamps; but meanwhile, our readers, with whom, as befits the time, we are having a confidential chat, will not, we think, object to the maintenance of the "old original" frontispiece.

So much for externals; now as to the inside of the magazine, which after all is the part most read; we will not attempt much in the way of promises; such things have always been classed with pie-crusts; which it would be derogatory to couple in any way with philately; neither do we feel inclined to imitate the example of some of our American friends, and, reviewing our last volume, declare that every member of our staff has written wonderfully erudite articles, and intends to write still more erudite ones in the coming year. We should like some one else to do the patting on the back, which,

if pressed, we might admit to be deserved. All that we have to say is, that we shall do our utmost to assist our readers in their study of philately, by giving them the best and earliest information we can obtain respecting new stamps, and the fullest and most accurate analysis of old ones, together with such lighter jottings as we may gather or receive.

Taking a glance at the past twelve months' labour, we find much on which to congratulate those who have at heart the interests of stamp-collecting and collectors. The year has not, perhaps, been marked with any one specially noteworthy incident, but steady progress has been made in the work of elucidating such points as still remain unsettled. The Philatelic Society has, however, hardly justified the anticipations which were formed of its usefulness. Its meetings have been lately held at irregular intervals; and we have not ourselves received reports of any since the one held in June. We fear the Society is in a languishing state; it has not taken root, nor been pushed as it might have been; and our hope of seeing branches established in the country is now very faint. Its operations and its range of study have been too limited; it has worked too exclusively in the groove of the "high school," and has shown too little sympathy with the great body of English collectors. It has failed to give any great impulse to stamp-collecting, and, so failing, has demonstrated its incapacity; we are left, then, to suppose that the experiment lacks the elements of success, and that it is solely through the magazines that the science can be explained and advocated. So long as they exist, collectors will prefer to make known their discoveries, and the results of their investigations, rather through them to the public

at large, than to submit them to the decision of a small committee of philatelists.

The year has been tolerably fruitful in periodicals, among which, of course, though there are many ephemerals, there are still no inconsiderable number of valuable additions to the literary stock. Collecting seems to be spreading in the United States, and the leading dealers are gaining in importance. The two or three principal journals are acquiring tone and value. Some excellent articles on the Confederate locals, and other stamps, have appeared in *The American Journal of Philately*. The weekly edition of this magazine has, however, only secondary interest, as it is made up chiefly of reprints; and much as we feel honoured by even unacknowledged borrowings from these pages, we should prefer to see the columns of our new contemporary filled with new matter.

Of permanent works, the only one which has been issued is the fifth edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, which, though it is not without its faults and omissions, is still on the whole a trustworthy production. Its appearance was hailed with satisfaction, and the very keenness of the criticism to which it was subjected, proved the interest felt in it by collectors.

The war has had some effect both on stamps and on those who collect them. M. Berger-Levrault, about whom an old correspondent inquires this month, has in all probability been shut up in Strasbourg, and no news of him has reached us since the war broke out. Dr. Magnus is shut up in Paris, and in another part of the present number will be found an extract from an interesting letter received from him. Mons. Mahé is no doubt serving in the ranks of the National Guard of Paris, and his journal, *Le Timbrophile*, is in abeyance.

The war has caused the issue of provisional stamps for the provinces occupied by the Germans, and the issue of the design of the old republic stamps. Furthermore, the siege of Paris has necessitated the lithographing of that design at Bordeaux, and the emission of an unperforated set of Republican stamps. Balloon posts and carrier pigeons are also among the things which the force of circumstances has brought into use, and the inno-

vation of post cards has been adopted at Paris.

The occupation of Rome has not yet brought about any increase in the number of Italian stamps, though probably the event will be commemorated, sooner or later, by the issue of a fresh series. The entire abolition of the Roman stamps proper is by no means certain, the king of Italy having proposed to allow the Pope to maintain a special postal series of his own.

In this country, happily, we have not to consider the effect which any great change of its condition or government has had, or may have, upon its postage stamps, but the year will be memorable in the annals of the postal service as that in which the halfpenny rate was brought into operation.

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR IN-EDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1870.

Alsace and Lorraine.

Figure of value on netted ground, thick rectangular border. [POSTES.] Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1	centime	green.
2	"	brown.
4	"	gray.
10	"	bistre.
20	"	blue.

Angola.

Crown in circular Greek border, inscription in upper margin. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

5	reis	black.
10	"	orange.
20	"	stone.
25	"	rose.
50	"	green.
100	"	bright violet.

Antioquia.

(See New Granada.)

Austria.

ENVELOPES.

1863 series. The 15 kreuzer covered by an adhesive 5 kr. rose.

Asorrs.

Provisional series, surcharged inscription in smaller type, and more compressed.
25 reis rose.

Baſru.

Field-post envelope. Black on chamois paper.

Bavaria.

RETURNED LETTER STAMPS.

Spies.

Same type as for Munich, &c., with the name SPEYER beneath the arms.
Blk. imp.; rect.
Black [no value].

Regensburg.

Inscription COMMISSION FUR RETOURBRIEFE
REGENSBURG disposed in four lines
in an oblong single-lined frame.
Blk. imp.; obl.
Black.

Belgium.

Profile of Leopold II., to left in oval, in frame of different design for each value. Col. imp.; rect., perf.
10 centimes [BELGIQUE] green, 20 c. blue.
30 „ [POSTES BELGIQUE] amber.
40 „ [POSTES DE BELGIQUE] carmine.
1 franc [BELGIQUE] violet.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

Figure of value in oval above a lion *couchant*, Belgian arms and motto above the oval, frame differing in each value. [BELGIQUE.] Col. imp.; rect., perf.
1 centime green.
2 „ blue.
5 „ amber.
8 „ lilac.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Figure of value in an oval inscribed A PERCEVOIR—CENTIMES, and surmounted by crown, circular disk in upper corners, one containing a hand, the other a lion *rampant*, the Belgian motto below the oval. Col. imp.; rect., perf.
10 centimes green.
20 „ blue.

Belogorsk.

(See Russian locals.)

Bergen.

(See Norway.)

Brattleboro'.

(See United States.)

Canada.

Similar design to that of 1868 series, but stamps one-third smaller, no figures in upper corners, value expressed in lower margin by the word CENTS, flanked by a large numeral.

1 cent orange.

3 „ red.

Ceylon.

Issue 1857-63. Col. imp. Watermarked cc. and crown. Rect., perf.
One-shilling deep mauve.

Cuba.

Female head, with mural crown and star above, symbolizing Spain, in oval, CORREOS above, value followed by date, 1870, below. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

5 centimos blue.

10 „ green.

20 „ brown.

40 „ rose.

Cundinamarca.

(See New Granada.)

Dacca (The).

Inscription in Hindostanee on an irregular arabesque ground, the remainder of the ground being composed of lattice-work. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Olive-green [$\frac{3}{4}$ anna].

Denmark.

Numeral of value in circle surmounted by crown, and supported by wreath and post-horn in inscribed oval. [DANMARK POSTERM.] Imp. in two colours; rect. perf.
4 sk., centre carmine, frame grey-green.
48 „ „ mauve, „ red-brown.

LOCAL.

Holte.

Denomination of value in inscribed oval, post-horns in angles. [HOLTE LAND-POST.] Col. imp.; rect.
2 sk. red-brown.

Dutch Indies.

Profile of King to right in circle, caduceus and anchor in lateral margins. [NED INDIE.] Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 cents green.

10 „ bistre.

20 „ ultramarine.

50 „ bright carmine.

Egypt.

Series of 1868. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
10 paras bright mauve.

Finland.

(See Russia.)

France.

EMPIRE.

Series of 1863. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
1 centime olive-green.

1867. Profile of Emperor on ground of horizontal lines (variety.) Col. imp.; rect. perf.
30 centimes brown.

THIRD REPUBLIC.

Type of 1848 reprinted. Col. imp.; rect. perf. and unperf.

Issued in Paris.

10 c. reddish bistre } perf.
20 „ blue }

Issued in Bordeaux.

10 c. pale bistre, reddish bistre } unperf.
20 „ pale and deep blue }

German Confederation (North.)

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

Black inscription in octagonal frame, and value and inscription in centre, on stone coloured ground formed of repetitions of the words NORDD POST-BEZIRK. [NORD-DEUTSCHE-POST. DIENST SACH.] Col. imp.; obl. perf.
 $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 groschen, black and grey.

Same design, ground of pearl-grey; black inscriptions. Col. imp.; obl. perf.
1, 2, 3, 7 kreuzer, black and grey.

POST CARD.

Black inscriptions on chamois card (no stamp impressed). Blk. on chamois.

FIELD-POST ENVELOPES AND CARDS.

Black inscriptions on brownish white paper.
No value.

Great Britain.

1868 series. Col. imp.; rect. *unperf* (variety).
Sixpence lilac.

1868 type, but white lines at top and bottom, separating the portrait from the margin, much *thinner* (variety).
Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Twopence blue.

Profile of Queen to left in curvilinear triangle, letters in four corners. [POSTAGE.]
Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Threehalfpence deep carmine-red.

STAMPS AND WRAPPERS FOR PRINTED MATTER.

Profile of Queen to left in uncoloured oval, value in figures at sides, letters in four corners. Col. imp.; obl. perf.
Halfpenny rose-carmine.

Bust of Queen to left in circle, arched band above, containing the value, three disks below containing figures indicating the date of emission. Col. imp.; upright rect. with rounded corners; impressed on wrapper.

Halfpenny green.

Variety, with disks filled in with florets.

Halfpenny green.

POST CARD.

Impressed stamp in upper right corner, bust of Queen to left in circle, spandrels ornamented, value in straight line below; to left of stamp the royal arms, with the words POST CARD above, and THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE, below; the whole enclosed in a Greek-patterned border. Col. imp. on buff cards of two sizes.

Halfpenny mauve.

(To be concluded in our next.)

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. IX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Austria, continued.

[NOTE.—By an oversight in correcting the proofs for October, a rather ridiculous printer's error was allowed to pass unnoticed. The two-centimetre guage was represented by a line extending from one side of the column (p. 170) to the other, the real length is about four-fifths of an inch.

!-----!

The above line is exactly two centimetres in length.]

THE 1863 series is probably about the best known of any series of foreign stamps. It came into use just when collecting was at its height, and so soon became plentiful, that, so to speak, it never was a novelty. Even to the youngest tyro it hardly needs description, and it will suffice to refer to it as the "arms" series, oval. Perhaps it may be simply because "familiarity breeds contempt," but the writer can hardly speak respectfully of the design; to him it appears a masterpiece of mediocrity; there is absolutely nothing of the grotesque or the picturesque to redeem it; the whole arrangement is strictly correct and commonplace; it would be a relief if it were ugly. The one sole thing to be remarked in connection with this series, is its existence with small and large perforations; so marked is the difference between the two editions, that both are worth collecting. Of the two, the earlier, distinguished by small fine dents, is the rarer, but specimens can always be obtained for the merest trifle. No varieties or reprints exist of any of the values.

The current series, issued in June, 1867, is not without historical interest, if we may believe the reports current at the time, that it was intended to some extent to commemorate the establishment of an *entente cordiale* between the emperor and his Hungarian subjects; but it is to be feared that this report must be set down as a pleasing fiction, and that, in fact, the emission of the series was due to some more prosaic reason, such for instance, as the exhaustion of the stock of the previous type. At all events, the fact may be noted that it did make its appearance just after the resuscitation of the Hungarian parliament, and, whatever its motive cause,

it was a welcome improvement on its predecessor.

The list of values and colours of recently issued sets is generally rather a work of supererogation; it will suffice in the present instance to state that about eighteen months since, all the stamps were issued in deeper shades than those which distinguished them on their first appearance; the large 50 kr. exists in salmon, and also in a kind of reddish brown. The design, though it has been abused by *nil admirari* critics, is by no means devoid of merit; the highest value is positively commendable.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

These must be divided into two kinds: 1, those which really prepay postage; 2, those which represent a duty collected by the government on foreign newspapers entering Austria.

1.—*Stamps which prepay postage.*

The first issue took place on New-Year's Day, 1851, and consisted of three stamps, all bearing the effigy of Mercury, in a square frame, and all without indication of value, the sole distinction being in the colours, which are, respectively, blue, yellow, and rose. The blue was worth one krenzer, the yellow ten, and the rose fifty; and as the rate of postage was one krenzer per newspaper, it follows that these stamps severally franked one, ten, and fifty papers. The highest value was, however, but slightly employed, and was therefore withdrawn on the 9th October, 1852. Having been in use for such a short period, and so long before collecting came in vogue, but few specimens are now to be had, and its particular employment reduced the chance of preservation; it was attached to the wrapper which enveloped a bundle of fifty newspapers, and with the wrapper was destroyed when the packet was opened; had it been used for letters, or even for single papers, like the blue, it might not have become so rare, but as it is, there is no European stamp more difficult to obtain than this rose Mercury, unless, indeed, it be its *confrère*, the yellow. The yellow stamp, as it prepaid only ten journals, was more extensively used, but the reasons above given for

the rarity of the rose, apply to it equally. The blue is, on the other hand, extremely common, and no collector need be without it.

The supply of the yellow stamp having run short, a poppy-red (*ponceau*), of the same value, was substituted for it. Information as to the circumstances attendant on the emission of the red was first given in 1866, by *Der Briefmarken Sammler*, a German magazine of some authority; its statements, were, however, called in question by Mr. Pemberton, who in the early months of 1867 avowed his conviction that the red Mercuries from the original die were all reprints, and those from another die were forgeries. Subsequently the emission of the red stamp was confirmed in *Le Timbrophile* (May, 1867) by the Chevalier de Latour, who wrote from documents furnished to him by the Austrian minister of finance, and as Mr. Pemberton has not since reiterated his opinion, it may be assumed that he was convinced by the details given in the Parisian journal. It must, however, be remarked that there is nothing in the latter to countenance the supposition that a new die was engraved for the red stamp, and, in fact, as the reprint Mercuries—the red, equally with the rose and yellow—are from the first dies, the assertion of the German paper to the effect that the red was from a new die, may be considered as disproved.

The Chevalier de Latour supports his statement that the red stamp was really issued by the following official notice:—

“Vienna, 21 March, 1856.

“*From the Royal and Imperial Ministry of Commerce.*

“The yellow stamps still remaining are left to the proprietors of journals to be employed in sending their papers in the same manner and for the same price as the blue journal-stamps, that is to say, a sheet of 100 for the value of a florin, therefore the yellow journal-stamps which still exist will be considered as of the same value as the blue, and as representing only the charge on one single copy of a newspaper. In place of the yellow journal-stamps, there have been prepared deep red stamps, of which one will represent the value of ten blue or yellow (as long as the latter last). The heads of post-offices

should give notice of the alteration to the newspaper proprietors.”

The date of this circular is also that of the emission of the red stamp, which, together with the blue, continued in use until the 14th of October, 1858, when they gave place to an embossed stamp, which, like the series of adhesives for letters, bore the emperor's head to left. Its value was 1 kr., and it was printed in blue. On the 12th of March, 1860, pursuant to a ministerial decree of that date, it was issued in lilac, and the type remained current in the latter colour, until the 21st of December of the same year, or rather until the 15th of January, 1861. It will be noticed that the postal authorities, guided doubtless by their experience of the Mercuries, refrained from issuing any high-value newspaper stamps.

The stamp of the 15th of January, 1861, authorised by the decree of the 21st of December, 1860, which suppressed its predecessor, is distinguished by its having the profile turned to right, and by the greater size of the head. The flatness of the framework, and the dullness of the colour, combine to render it one of the most ineffective stamps known.



On the 15th of May, 1863, the issue of the “arms” stamps was decreed, and the stamp itself was emitted on the 1st of December of the same year. This stamp is exceedingly common, and it would seem that

it was not always cancelled on its passage through the post, as I have met with many specimens, and sometimes portions of sheets, which had evidently been used, but were quite clean.

In June, 1867, the still current rectangular Mercury was issued, and is found in two shades, lilac and warm violet; the latter is comparatively rare.

2.—*Stamps representing a duty collected by the government on foreign newspapers entering Austria.*

The design common to this class of stamps

is the large type-printed rectangle, containing the double-headed eagle, and the inscription KAIS. KON. ZEITUNGS STAMPEL (Imperial Royal Journal Stamp).

The first stamp issued was the 2 kr. green, which exists in three shades, and also shows a variety in design, the angles being occupied by a kind of four-cornered star; from two sides of the stars in the upper corners, and from one side of those in the lower, there starts a trefoil; the inside square is also rather larger.

The issuing of this stamp was authorised by a decree of the 22nd April, 1850, and its emission took place on the 1st of October of the same year. The stamp was put on in the post-office, and its amount was collected on delivery. The charge of 2 kr. applied to all foreign papers indiscriminately, and the stamp remained in use as long as the tax itself was maintained.

In 1857-8 a change, which in some respects was a retrograde one, was made. A postal convention was entered into between Austria and certain German states, pursuant to which papers coming from these states were to be taxed 2 kreuzers each on their entry, and those of all other states were to pay 4 kreuzers. A new die was then engraved, the 2 kr. green was withdrawn, and the 2 kr. and 4 kr., both brown, were issued. These rates were, however, revised on 23rd November, 1858, and the tax was reduced for German papers to 1 kr., and for all others to 2 krs. The 4 kr. brown was then withdrawn, after a circulation of only eight months; the 2 kr. brown was continued in use for foreign papers other than those arriving from the "favoured nations," and for the benefit of these latter a 1 kr. blue was issued, which is still in use. Similar variations took place in the Austro-Italian stamps, and these will be noticed in due course.

ENVELOPES.

There have been three emissions of envelopes respectively accompanying, and of the same design as, the adhesives of 1861, 1863, and 1867. The first issue has, however, four values, which are not represented

among the adhesives, viz., 20, 25, 30, and 35 kreuzers. Of these high denominations, three appear to have been comparatively little used, as in the 1863 emission, only one—the 25 kr.—reappears; the third emission, that of 1867, has one value less than its companion set of labels—the 50 kr. is wanting.

To give a list of all the values and colours would be a waste of space, the mere enumeration, except where necessary for reference, being useless. Suffice it to say, that original, and particularly uncut impressions of the first series, are difficult to obtain, and a young beginner will find even the reprints rather difficult to get, and expensive into the bargain. Of the second series, cut copies of all, except the 25 kr., can easily be had, and even the latter cannot by any means be termed rare. Uncut copies, which are always to be preferred, are rather scarce. The acquirement of the stamps of the current series offers no difficulty.

LOCALS.

The only locals meriting the name, are the stamps of the Danubian Steam Navigation Company, which it has always been understood are in *bond* use, and represent the tax claimed of right by the company for its own benefit on letters posted on board its boats, which, I should add, perform the Danubian mail service. The 17 soldi vermillion, and 10 s. lilac, were issued in 1866; subsequently the higher value was withdrawn, and the 10 soldi was reissued in green, in which colour it continued current.

The Leitmeritz stamps, of which fifty-five were issued, are spurious, and should be repudiated by all collectors.

The stamps of the Gallician railway ought no more to be collected than those of our own lines, or those of the Danish companies. *Postage-stamp* collecting, pure and simple, will give quite sufficient occupation to any who go into it, and "*stamp* collecting in all its branches" may be left to the advocacy of foreign philatelists.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FRENCH REPUBLIC—In another part of this number will be found fresh details respecting the resuscitated type of the old republic. This type has now, however, a companion, three low value stamps having appeared, which are ornamented with a design copied, except as regards the effigy, from the imperial stamps of the same denomination—this design is here represented. The complete list now reads as follows:—

1 centime	olive on green,	} unperf.
2	„ brown on straw,	
4	„ grey on white,	
10	„ bistre, perf. and unperf.,	
	several shades.	
20	„ blue, perf. and unperf.,	
	several shades.	
80	„ bright carmine, unperf.	

No doubt to these will soon be joined stamps of 30 and 40 centimes. The former value must be in particular request, as it represents the rate for letters for this country, which has at present to be formed with two stamps at least. We may also look forward to the early appearance of a 5 centimes of the republic, old type, as this value has never been issued with laureated head, and the old stock must be pretty nearly exhausted. At Paris the authorities attach the 5 centimes of the empire to the little cards which the Paris letter-writers send to their correspondents in the country. The stamp represents the cost of the card, and does not prepay the reply which is to be written on it. These cards form an interesting item among the special means of communication with Paris, resorted to under present circumstances. They are only sold in Paris; the purchaser, in the letter he writes, puts four questions to his correspondent in the country, which should be so framed as to admit of an absolute negative or affirmative answer being given to each. In his letter he inserts the card, and the receiver fills in, on ruled spaces provided for the purpose, the

name of the district in which he resides, the initials of his surname, the name and address of his friend in Paris, and his replies to the four questions addressed to him, which replies must be confined to a simple yes or no. The card thus filled in must be taken to a post-office, and one franc must be paid by the sender as postage thereof; the postmaster, to whom it is confided, remits it in turn to the delegate of the postmaster-general at Clermont Ferrand (or elsewhere), and this latter transmits the laconic communication it contains by carrier pigeon to Paris.

SPAIN.—The Congress stamps promise to become a numerous family. Only eight months since, a new die was prepared, and now behold another, which differs hardly at all from its predecessor. The word *Congreso* is transformed into *Congresso* on the last comer, for some abstruse reason, no doubt, and that is about all the difference which exists between the two stamps.

SPANISH COLONIES.—The new type is here represented, and it will at once be seen that

Senor Eugenie Julia, the engraver (whose initials may be discerned in the lower right corner), has been taking a leaf out of Messrs. Perkins & Bacon's book. The idea of the seated figure has evidently been borrowed

from the Barbados and Trinidad stamps, though what or whom the said figure is intended to represent is fair ground for conjecture—possibly Commerce, possibly Liberty, possibly regenerated Spain holding out the olive-branch of peace to all the world. It will be noticed that the *peseta* has become the unit of currency, as in the old country, and also that the system of dating the emissions is maintained. We must defer giving a list of the colours and values until our next.

UNITED STATES.—We are indebted to Mr. L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, for notice of a rather curious handstamp which is now used in the post office of that city. It con-

sists simply of a solid oval disk, with a thick outer line, and bearing in the centre the word **PAID** in large letters. This handstamp is impressed on the circulars, or rather on the envelopes which contain them. We presume that it is used only when a large number of circulars are taken to the office, and the postage is paid in money.

SWITZERLAND.—*Righi-Coulm*.—The well known Rigi-Kaltbad stamp has now a com-

panion in the shape of a Righi-Coulm stamp, of which the annexed cut is a representation. It is printed in two colours; the oval is blue, and the ground and the flower

is rose. The local stamps of the Rigi are, it appears, to be suppressed in the course of this year, as the railway up the mountain will probably be completed in the course of a few months.

We learn from our Brussels contemporary that the Helvetian Republic now possesses field-post envelopes.

RUSSIA.—*Belozersk*.—The new stamp for the Belozersk district, which we introduced to our readers in our November number, is here represented. We regret that through some delay on the part of the engravers the cut was not received in time for insertion last month.

It may be as well to remind our readers that the lines forming the background are of a reddish yellow, and that the remainder of the stamp is in black.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The annexed cut is inserted simply to put collectors on their guard against envelopes bearing the design it represents. This design, together with two other similar ones, was fabricated so long since as 1866, and was noticed and condemned in our April number of that year (p. 57).

All three types are now reproduced and struck on envelopes, and the owners of the stock give out that they have received their supplies from Buenos Ayres. Even were this

true, it would prove nothing, for what could be easier than to send them there for the purpose of having them returned? but M. Moens vouches for the fact that those he has received came from this country. We are happy to join with him in denouncing them once again, and we trust no one will be deceived by them.

NEW GRANADA.—*Cundinamarca*.—The engraving here given represents the 5 centavos

blue of this state, first noticed by Mr. Pemberton. It will be seen that the design differs somewhat from the 10 centavos described in a recent number, and also figured here. The latter stamp is printed in red on white paper.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Here is a representation of the new type for this colony, introduced to the notice of our readers in the November number. Both stamps are a valuable addition to the very beautiful current series, and do credit to designer and engraver.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A correspondent writes us as follows: "You have not chronicled the fact, and may possibly not have observed it, that the plates of the new halfpenny stamps are numbered. A small piece of the background, close to the figure of value on each side, is removable, that on the right hand side being just above, that on the left just below the centre—and a numeral is inserted in these places. I have an unperforated specimen of No. 1 plate, similar, doubtless, to the one you first described, and the figure, being a mere stroke in the background, would certainly escape notice if not looked for. I have seen the numbers already as high as 8."

We can corroborate our correspondent's

observations, and at the same time must congratulate him on his sharpness of eye.

HOLLAND.—On the 1st December appeared a 2½ cents adhesive, of the arms type, coloured violet.

BAVARIA.—The 1, 3, and 7 krenzer are now perforated.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—V.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

NEW GRANADA.—We omitted to mention in the proper place that two *erreurs d'impression* exist among these labels. The colours of the 20 c. and 50 c. of the 1863 issue have been reversed, thereby giving us a 20 c. green, and a 50 c. red.

PARMA.—We are of the same opinion as the lamented author of the *Revue du Catalogue Berger*, in respect to the stamps of this state having been reprinted; for it is very strange that until, comparatively speaking, lately, none of the FIFTEEN errors given by M. Moens in his last catalogue were known to the philatelic world. M. Regnard, in his manual, published six years since, enumerates several Modenese varieties, but not a single one for Parma; the same may be said of other compilers of timbrophilic works. We will not go so far as to say that no error exists among the originals; but we strongly advise that none be accepted, unless found upon genuine postmarked copies.

PERU.—“Pendragon” mentions as a variety a stamp of this republic having the cornucopia on *white* ground; this difference is entirely due to excessive wear of the plate, and is not worth collecting.

PORTUGAL.—As stated previously in this volume, the earliest stamps for Azores had the surcharged lettering in smaller and closer type than the later ones; specimens also exist in which the word AÇORES is printed upside down.

PRUSSIA.—In the 1858 series there is a 3 sgr. printed in deep blue, instead of its normal yellow colour; and an error of the 2 sgr. in the first eagle emission “returns the compliment” by appearing in bistre. We may note that all the values of the 1858 set

(except the 6 pf.) are found both with, and without the *burelé* across them.

RUSSIA.—One of the very latest errors is a 3 kop. printed upon the ground pattern, containing the minute and oft-repeated v of the 5 kop. We think several sheets must have been struck off, as they are becoming, comparatively speaking, rather numerous. According to M. Mahé, there is a variety of the 30 kop. envelope, having both the numeral and the circle containing it slightly larger. There are also visible differences in the border, and in the shape of the letters forming the inscription.

SANDWICH ISLES.—Sundry labels purporting to be rare Hawaiian errors, are sometimes sold with either letters or portions of words left out in the inscription. These are only vile reprints (or even worse), made to sell, and should be scouted by all amateurs.

ST. HELENA.—In M. Moens' catalogue we find a sixpenny given in red, the colour of the penny. This is of course the usual stamp, only lacking the superadded value, and the black bar. That this label was ever issued is a matter of doubt; it is more probable that a sheet was obtained from the printers, in its unfinished state, either surreptitiously or through influence.

SERVIA.—In the earliest issue, with the head of sovereign, is the well known 2 para, having the inscription PARF. This exists in both the perforated and the unperforated; but, strange to say, its position in the sheet varies in each.

SHANGHAI.—The first issue for this local post-office is full of interest, and now that so many reprints are about they deserve careful study. However, to give a full account of these stamps is out of our present province, so we must confine our attention solely to their varieties and errors.

The following list we can guarantee as being complete, and as not containing a single variety which did not exist among the original labels.

The value of the stamps is inscribed upon the left side, and reads perpendicularly; the upper character stands for the denomination of value, the second for FUN (candareen), and the lower for YIN (silver).

In the one candareen there are no errors,

but there are three kinds of numerals used in the English value; we have a Roman I, a thick Arabic 1, and a figure which we must term mediæval.

There is a very peculiar variety in the 2 candareens; for in place of the ordinary character, signifying LIANG (two), a couple of horizontal lines are given, representing "a pair." Some of the stamps showing this difference are inscribed in the singular number, as CANDAREEN. In this value there are two sorts of numerals: the Arabic and mediæval.

The 3 cand. possesses a duality of errors, both of them in stamps with the mediæval figure; one has the value given in the singular and the other is inscribed CANDAREENS. The stamps with the Arabic numerals are without flaws.

The only class of figure used for the 4 cand. is the mediæval. This value is found in both the singular and plural state. A most extraordinary mistake was made upon the early stamps by the engraver substituting the Chinese word T'SIEN (mace) for the correct inscription, FUN, thereby causing the worth of the stamp to read as forty candareens; ten candareens being equal to a mace. The error was soon rectified, and only existed on the plural value.

All the 6 cand. are correctly inscribed, and have the mediæval numeral. The latter portion of our last remark will apply with equal force to the 8 cand.; but both singular and plural labels exist of the higher value.

In the 12 cand. there is no error, but there are two varieties of figures, the mediæval and the Roman; or, to be more correct, the latter must be described as a Roman I, combined with a thick, well formed 2. The 16 cand. has similar kinds of numerals to the last mentioned value, and also is printed in both singular and plural forms.

In all the values there are slight discrepancies in the position of the initials L. P. O., and of the stops; but as the stamps are type-set, they cannot be chronicled as varieties.

SICILY.—Some time since the editor of *Le Timbrophile* described an error of the 2 grana inscribed SICILLA; and a 20 gr. having a badly shaped figure 1 preceding the 20, causing the value to appear as 120 gr.

Not having seen either of these contortions, we give them with reserve, candidly confessing, at the same time, our disbelief in their authenticity.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Early this year a copy of the tenpenny stamp was noted in these pages, as having the surcharged lettering over the words SOUTH AUSTRALIA, instead of at foot as usual.

SPAIN.—A *rara avis* is the 2 reales of 1855, printed in blue, in lieu of pink; this error is priceless, it being almost unique. Specimens of the 12 and 19 cuartos of 1865 exist, having the head of her ex-Majesty reversed.

TURKEY.—In the first issue a few copies are known of the 1 piastre, printed in greenish blue, but whether they were proofs or emitted stamps is a moot point. In the 1864 set, there exists a 10 paras with the figure 1 in the angles.

THE THREE STAMPS OF ST. LOUIS.

AN INVESTIGATION.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

WE have had a lull in the storm brought about by these stamps; Mr. Philbrick's letter, in February last, appears to have silenced disbelievers, if it has not convinced them. Since then I have had the only known specimens of the resuscitated 20 c., three in number, handed to me for examination. The discovery of this value was quite unlooked for by anyone, and, to me, was pregnant with suspicion, which, convinced as I was of the authenticity of those 5 and 10 c. on thin paper, which I had known for years, tended to the inference that the recently offered 5 and 10 c. on thicker bluish and greenish paper, had some mystery in their origin; and so indeed it did appear. Of course I regarded these three 20 c. with great doubt. On a cursory examination, I found they had been printed from two altered dies of the 5 c.; and I further found that in two specimens of 5 c. from one of these dies, there were discrepancies in the numeral and the trifling strokes, &c., around it, and also in the head of one of the bears. This did not ease my perplexity, but I could do nothing until I had more specimens to examine, for one 5 c. was on the thin paper, the other on the

thicker greenish, the 20 c. from this 5 c. resembling both in certain points; I therefore borrowed all the specimens I could, and on a careful comparison proved the 20 c. stamp, as well as the other 5 and 10 c. on the thicker paper, to be genuine, entirely to my satisfaction. I began as a sceptic, but ended a believer, having convinced myself against my own prior judgment.

After what has been written, it is a useless waste of time to go all through the history and causes of issue of the St. Louis stamps. At foot are references to all the principal mention made of them in this magazine. The first notice of them is at page 152, vol. i. (Nov., 1863), where the 10 c. is given. On page 171 (of the same volume) the 10 c. is quoted in Mr. Lesley's famous paper. Although the next notice appears so long after as April, 1867 (p. 50), only the 10 c. is given, and it was not till March, 1868 (p. 34), that the two values were chronicled together. This is curious, as showing their excessive rarity in Europe, and, but for the enterprise of Mr. J. W. Scott and Mr. Durbin, they might have remained almost unknown. They were, beyond doubt, in use in 1845, and were engraved, at the instance of the postmaster, Mr. John H. Hymer (not Wymer), by Mr. Kershaw, of St. Louis. He, speaking from memory, says this happened in 1848, and that he then engraved six of each value. The date has been shown to be 1845 (the New York 5 c. "post-office" was in use then, *if not before*). As to the six types of each, these have not been disproved, though I may state I can only identify three of each. I see that in February last I mentioned having found a fourth of the 10 c., but I cannot verify this now, and fear it must be an error made by me in comparing the descriptions I published in *The Philatelist* (for September 1869), with specimens obtained afterwards: for I now write with all the specimens I ever had before me. In this examination I have examined thirteen 5 c., and twelve 10 c.; ten of these twenty-five came across the Atlantic, lent by the kindness of Dr. Petrie; altogether I had a number of specimens never seen together in England. I will take the 5 c. value first, giving the differences between the three

distinct types, and, afterwards, the differences between the first and last states of each of those types, as far as I have found them.

A good magnifier is necessary in the following examinations. The dies of 5 c., with which I am acquainted, are three; two of these, after being worked for a time were altered to 20 c., but this value being evidently little wanted, the altered twenties were turned back again into fives: whether the third die was ever altered to 20 c. I have not been able to determine, neither have I found traces of more than three out of the six dies of 5 c., stated to have been made by the engraver, I have not seen enough of them, however, to be sure that no other exist.

FIVE CENTS.

I.—Eleven strokes over SAINT; ten over LOUIS, one of which cuts through the frame. Eagle very deeply shaded, lettering thin and very uneven. Scroll at base has a double outline to the right ends, and, in addition, these ends touch the frame.

II.—Twelve strokes over SAINT, sixteen over LOUIS. Eagle slightly shaded. Lettering in garter thick and more even; lettering in scroll, P of SUPREMA very small, X very low down, E after it seems very unfinished, second P of POPULI has a line down it, and might be anything. Scroll not as in I.

III.—Six strokes over SAINT; eight over LOUIS, the top and bottom ones being long strokes. Eagle leans to the right. Lettering thin and queer. D of STAND, and first D of DIVIDE very rough, V of ditto is a Y, LL of FALL double lines.

The above points do not touch upon the figures, because the numeral of value is the great differing point between the 5 c. as first engraved, and the same stamp after alteration, and then re-engraving, as 5 c. To assist comparison, and identification of varieties from this paper, I have grouped the great points of difference which exist between the first and last 5 c. and the intermediate 20 c., as thus:—

- a. The numeral. There are always large open marks of shading in top and back of the 5, sometimes in the ball; these I call *marks*; the other shadings I call *dots* in distinction.
- b. The strokes under SAINT.
- c. The strokes under LOUIS.
- d. The head of the bear to the right side of the stamp.
- e. The two lines of frame above numeral.

These will be found to embrace all the points which differ.

DIE I.

§ First state of die, 5 c.

- a. Marks thus: a triangle in top, a diamond in back, with four dots above, and nine below it, ball blank.

- b.* Four strokes, one long, two shorter, with one speck below, and just over the bear's paw is a vertical mark.
- c.* One very long, three short; of these two come above and two below point of bear's ear.
- d.* Bear's ears pointed and shaded, the paw on garter is also shaded. Forehead projecting and rounded, leaving a depression above snout. Snout rounded at end, and it, and the whole head, is heavily shaded.

§ Second state of die, 20 c.

- b.* Four strokes, but bolder and closer than above, the vertical stroke over (left) bear's paw nearly erased.
- c.* Strokes deeper and more regular, the third stroke (downwards) on a level with the bear's ear. L of LOUIS has been re-engraved.
- d.* Ears obtuse, straighter, and the left one unshaded. Snout square, it, and the whole head, less shaded. Bear's paw on garter is erased.
- e.* Inner line of frame half erased between SAINT and LOUIS.

§ Third state of die, 5 c.

- a.* Marks thus: in top a diamond, in back a long diamond, with four dots above and four below, in ball a black mark. Shading around figure much coarser than in first, and by the back is one vertical curved line, the outline of the right side of the 0 of the 20, which was not cleverly erased.
- b.* Lines and marks four, graduating, the second sinuous, and touches the bear's ear.
- c.* Three, one long, two short, the last level with bear's ear. L of LOUIS a trifle longer and more slanting than in the others.
- d.* Head, ears, &c., as last; the paw on the garter is only outlined.
- e.* Bulges a little, showing where re-engraved.

DIE II.

§ First state, 5 c.

N.B.—Not having the third state, I can only describe the first as it stands with reference to the second state, *i.e.*, the 20 c.

- a.* Marks are these: a diamond in top, an upright diamond in back with eleven dots below, those above are hidden by the postmark in this, the only specimen I have seen. It is a very fine early copy, with the curious feather-like strokes over SAINT and LOUIS very clear under a magnifier—sharp as can be. I am convinced that the figure 5 on this was originally engraved 1, whether by accident or design I cannot say, but the straight or down stroke of the 5 shows a thin line to its right, and at top, in the top of the 5, are three minute dots in a curve, to the right of the diamond mark, whilst to the left are two, equally small, one over the other.
- b.* Four, one long, three short.
- c.* Four, one long, two short, and one speck on a level between the ear and eye of the bear on that side.

§ Second state of die, 20 c.

- b.* One long and one short.
- c.* Two top ones half gone, third quite gone, but the speck is there.
- e.* Inner line gone from T to L, and a smaller piece of the outer frame.

§ Third state of die, 5 c.,
I have never found; doubtless it exists.

DIE III.

Of this die all I have seen (six in number) are alike, save that some have a clear mark in ball of figure, whilst others have the ball blank. The last are the earliest, those with mark are later, and possibly were so altered when the two 5 c. above were engraved in their last states. I have never found any other differences, or any thing pointing to the existence of a 20 c. from this die.

§ First state of die, 5 c.

- a.* Marks are these: a long diamond in top, a misshapen one in back with four dots, and nine below it, ball with a slight speck. Later this was engraved deeply, becoming a transverse pear-shaped mark.
- b.* Four, one long, two short, and one speck.
- c.* Four, one long and deep, three shorter, of which the middle one is smallest.

This finishes the 5 and 20 c. specimens at my disposal. The existence of the third state 5 c., die I., on one of the well-known old copies, is an argument which clinches the genuineness of the 20 c., and consequently of the later-found specimens of dies I., II., and III., on thickish paper, of the *first states*.

TEN CENTS.

Of this value I have identified three dies. As they have never been altered (to my knowledge), the simple differences as given below, will suffice to distinguish one die from the others:—

Die I.—Three curved lines at foot; at *b*, five; at *c*, four strokes.

Die II.—Three curved lines with a smaller stroke over each, at foot; at *b*, four; at *c*, four strokes.

Die III.—Three curved lines, with a smaller stroke over each, and with dots added between the two strokes at each end, at foot; at *b*, five (two last are specks); at *c*, five (the last a speck).

In conclusion: the earliest specimens of 5 and 10 c. were printed on an opaque paper of a delicate greenish grey tint; later, of a dull grey-blue, getting thinner; and lastly, on a very thin dull grey paper, more or less transparent. Some copies are shown upon white, but these are copies from which the colour has been discharged by chemicals. The three 20 c. are in the second mentioned paper.

POSTAGE STAMPS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.—II.

THE information we have been able to collect during the past month respecting the new French republic stamps, enables us to correct, on some points, that which we gave in our last number, and to add some fresh details.

The 20 centimes was issued at Boulogne (whence all our knowledge of the provincial emission is derived) early in December, and, contrary to the assertions of the postal authorities there, it turned out to be *unperforated*. This fact alone tended to remove such doubts as we felt, when last writing, as to the issue of an independent provincial series, and our surmises were confirmed by the statement made by the officials to our correspondent, to the effect that the stamps they were selling had been struck off in *Bordeaux*.

The first sheets of the 20 c., issued in Boulogne, consisted of five evenly-printed specimens of two shades, dark and light blue. Those since supplied, however, show a marvellous deterioration in the working, due, no doubt, to the extreme softness of the plates. In fact, the stamps at first sight appeared to be mere lithographic copies of the fine original engraving, so coarse was the impression. All the lines on the crown of the head are worn away, leaving a large white space; the shading across the neck and cheek has also almost entirely disappeared; the fine ground in the spandrels is half-filled with colour, and the lettering from the same cause is rendered indistinct. It must not be thought, moreover, that we base this description on the examination of a single specimen of two or three. We have before us twenty-five unused and uncut copies, forming the section of a sheet, and consisting of five rows of five. Furthermore, our correspondent informs us he has received similar blurred copies on letters from Laval, a town in the west of France. It therefore seems pretty clear that towards the last the plate "gave way," to a large extent.

Only a limited supply, to meet immediate requirements, appears to have been sent out. Both 10 and 20 c. were used up in Boulogne

within a few days of their emission, and their places were temporarily occupied by the stamps of the empire. Since then, however, a fresh supply has been received.

We noticed last month that the colour of the provincial 10 c. was a very light yellowish bistre. Some few copies have, however, been struck off in a reddish bistre, approaching, probably, the shade of its Parisian congener, in which shade the details of the design show up remarkably well.

Since the above has been in type we have had the good fortune to receive copies of the one centime, and are able to give an engraving thereof. It will be seen that apart from the change in the portrait, the design is absolutely the same as that of the lately-issued laureated one centime of the empire. The colour is also exactly the same, but, like the other stamps from Bordeaux, these, too, are unperforated.

Le Timbre-Poste, which has just reached us, confirms our statement that the provincial series is fabricated at Bordeaux, and adds that the work is performed under the superintendence of the postal authorities of the Gironde.

It appears from our contemporary that, in addition to the values which are known to us, there have also appeared an 80 centimes bright carmine of the old type, and 2 c. light brown on straw, and 4 c. grey on white, of the same type as the imperial stamps of the same value, but differing in detail from the new 1 c. Our contemporary states positively that the stamps are *lithographed*; if so, and we would not question the statement, we must say that the fine copies of the old design are masterpieces of lithography.

PAR BALLON MONTÉ.

THE following are extracts from Dr. Magnus's letter to Mons. Moens, to which reference was made in our last:—

Paris, 6 November, 1870.

The invasion of France by the German army, followed as it has been by the calling to arms of the entire population of the country, and the suspension of all business, has done great injury to the study of stamps. Whilst our friend, B. L. [Berger-Levrault], submitted in Strasbourg to a disastrous siege, of the effects of which on him we are still in ignorance, others fled precipitately from Paris, in

consequence of the invasion, or because of the downfall of the imperial government. The majority, however, remained in the city, and in the ranks of the National Guard has aided in its defence. Not to speak of the frequent disturbance occasioned by the daily drills and the mounting of guard on the ramparts, which have been common to everybody, we inhabitants of the suburbs have had to quit our homes, and bring away with us our most valued possessions. As you may well suppose, my collection has not been forgotten, but is packed up in four or five cases or pasteboard boxes, and, thus stowed away, it is not easy to refer to it at present. It is impossible, then, to continue the revision of my manuscript on the envelope stamps or to send you copy. That is a labour which can only be taken up after peace has been made.

The learned writer then proceeds to give details respecting the postal regulations adopted during the siege, and winds up with the following remarks:—

What more can I tell you about which you are not better informed than I? The journals have talked of German postage stamps being used in our invaded provinces, and of their denominations being represented in French money. These are but rumours for us; for the last stamp magazine received bears date the 1st September. When will it finish, this isolation, which bears so heavily on our spirits?

THE SWISS STAMPS.—II.

BY FENTONIA.

NEXT in date to the Geneva stamps, according to tradition, are the Zurich stamps; but are they *bono-fide* postage stamps at all? "Of course they are," say the dons; "none but the most crotchety sceptic could doubt it." Be it so. I know nothing for or against the assumption, and certainly both those pronounced forged and those pronounced genuine, often bear a very pretty obliteration, quite like an orthodox postmark. Tradition states their value to be 4 and 6 *centimes*—*centimes* be it observed—though Zurich is a German canton, and therefore at that time, if not now, most likely using *rappen*. It is also a remarkable fact, that though Zurich is the centre of German Switzerland, and though the German language (and in the rural districts a German *patois*) is spoken, yet the inscription on the stamps is French. And then the exceptional word "taxe," which, to the best of my recollection, occurs on no other stamp admitted as postal, except on a sort of mongrel accredited to Turkey (described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. 4, p. 185), and on that it is surmounted by the words "Poste-Locale." I am not sufficiently a linguist to define the various

meanings to which the word "taxe" is in French applied, but I believe that while it means a rate or price fixed on anything, and might therefore include postage stamps, yet it is more generally employed to designate an impost or revenue tax. Zurich may be considered, as regards size and importance, the metropolis of Switzerland, though it shares by turns with Berne and Lucerne the honour of the annual meeting of the Federal Diet. The four well-known fiscal stamps for the "Kanton Bern," at one time thought to be postal, have the value and spelling after German fashion, and are, therefore, exempt from the anomaly attributable to Zurich.

Much has been written as to the true standard of genuineness. Some trust in the hyphen, some in the fine pink lines, some in the border pattern, and "when doctors differ, who shall agree?" If any are genuine, I should give the palm to those having a diæresis over the u in Zurich, considering the other points of minor importance.

The (so-called) Winterthur stamp comes next under review. The date of its emission, its locality, and its duration, have yet to be discovered. As Basle had a 2½ rappen stamp as early as 1848, it might have been issued about, or soon after, that date for general use throughout the confederation—ORTS POST on one side, and POSTE LOCALE on the other, indicating it was intended for both German and French cantons. It was probably but a short time in use, when doubtless it was found more convenient to issue separate stamps, of which the leading feature was, as also on stamps of higher value, the white cross on red shield of Federal Switzerland, which differs only from that of Savoy by the cross not touching the shield—*alesé* in French. And here, though it is a digression from the main subject, I would remark on the red cross worn by neutrals, tending the sick and wounded in the present terrible war, being termed the Geneva cross. It certainly has nothing to do with the heraldry of the city and canton. Some one has said that it was decided on by the European powers as a distinguishing badge, in a certain treaty recently made at Geneva, providing for the better care of men wounded in battle; but my researches in the only con-

temporaneous history at hand—*The Annual Register*—have not been successful in finding any mention of such a treaty. *Mais revenons à nos moutons.*

The 4 c. and 5 c. oblong stamps come next in date of emission. The former is so rare, that it has sometimes crossed my mind that it might have been a misprint (the device and colours being identical on both stamps), of which only a few sheets were circulated before it was officially suppressed. Being nearly the same shape and size as the (so-called) Winterthur stamp, they might have been for a time contemporaries, as it now appears was the case with the 5 centimes (Vaud), and the 5 rappen *Rayon I.* on blue ground. In all these stamps we have the inevitable horn, called indiscriminately by Mount Brown, a post-horn, and a hunting-horn—the latter the most heraldic, the former the most appropriate term.

[Fentonia has evidently not met with a record of the Geneva convention, to which all the Great Powers were parties.—Ed].

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

M. BERGER-LEVRAULT, OF STRASBOURG.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—What became of that useful friend to philately, Mons. Berger-Levrault, during the siege of Strasbourg? Has he been able to save his stamps from the general wreck, and re-establish his business, which, if I mistake not, was that of a publisher or bookseller?

Clifton.

FENTONIA.

[M. Oscar Berger-Levrault is a printer and publisher, at the head of a very large establishment, employing many hundreds of workmen. From founding the type and preparing the lithographic stones, to turning out the complete bound volume, every operation and trade was carried on upon the premises, and works of the most sumptuous and elaborate character were produced there. We regret to state that no replies have been received to various communications sent to him since the siege ended; but probably the pressure of more serious business has prevented M. Berger-Levrault attending to philatelic matters.—Ed.]

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—We observe in the November number of your valuable magazine, a statement made by Mr. Dudley Atlee, respecting the South African Republic proofs, which we cannot allow to pass unnoticed.

Mr. Atlee states that these proofs were obtained from the German engraver; this is a mistake, as we have several of Mr. Jeppe's letters, in his own handwriting, presenting us with a great number of them, and in the last, dated July 20th, 1870, he says, "I enclose all the proofs which I have." We can fully endorse Mr. Atlee's remarks as to the genuineness of all the Transvaal stamps; in fact, we never met with any collector who had a doubt of them.

Plymouth.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY, GIBBONS, & CO.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. H. E., San Francisco.—We are glad to have been favoured with a sight of the rather curious lottery tickets of your town.

R. J. K., St. John, Newfoundland.—Accept our thanks for specimens of your new three-cent stamp. The cancelling mark on the used copy is a curiosity in its way.

GERTINELLIANNIE.—Your twopence South Australia, with S. P. impressed in large letters, is used by the magistrates, and stands for stipendiary or special magistrate. We have never seen one franking a letter to this country, therefore think it probable they are used only within the limits of the colony.

URBANUS, Stoke-Damerel.—We cannot inform you how the Pope will manage to get his letters conveyed through the post. It will certainly be rather *infra dig.* to use the Italian stamps bearing the effigy of his conqueror; yet we doubt whether the pontifical stamps will long have, even if they have now, any postal value.

E. BEVERIDGE, Dunfermline, complains that some months back he paid a dealer, now residing in Battersea, ten shillings for a set of the first Swedish stamps, stipulating for liberty to return them, should they turn out to be reprints. As they in fact were reprints he sent them back on the 24th September, and has not heard since from the seller, who, we trust, for his own credit's sake, has simply overlooked, and will now arrange, the matter.

J. C., Manchester.—We insert your notice of the numerals on the halfpenny English in our article on New Issues.—1. Your Confederate one cent belongs to the second printing, commonly called the genuine old set, the first stamps were yellower.—2. Your Spanish "Habilitado" is a genuine original.—3. We see no reason for supposing that your medio-real San Domingo is a reprint.—4, 5. These two St. Domingo stamps belong to different issues.—6. The Antigua penny is simply a faded specimen.—7. Your Blood's Penny Post is an original and somewhat scarce stamp, worth, say, 3/6.—8. The New Brunswick stamp is genuine.—9. The Virgin Isles sixpence is a good but rather faded copy.—10. Your 2 r.s. Danish is also genuine; this type exists on plain white paper without the *burelage*: unused copies are not rare; they are worth about 6/- each.

J. H. R., York.—You are right in assuming that the circulation of what are termed the Alsace and Lorraine stamps is not confined merely to those provinces, but is co-extensive with the German occupation. We received a short time since a letter from a gentleman holding a high position in the Hamburg post-office, in which he explained that the Prussian postal service in France is sub-divided into three distinct branches. There is, first, that of the departments bordering on the Rhine, which the Prussians purpose annexing—this service is organised on a permanent basis; secondly, there is the service for those parts of France which the Prussians may be said to firmly hold, such as the districts from Metz round to Laon; and, thirdly, what may be termed the field or movable service, which comes into operation in places only temporarily occupied. In this connection it may not be uninteresting to mention that at Amiens the Prussians have introduced a veritable reform in the postal rates; their office carries letters for all the occupied parts of the country for ten centimes, or only half the regular amount. Letters for the uninvaded provinces, however, are charged 20 centimes, and we presume must be open. If any are sent they must reach their destination by some very circuitous route.—There is not a grey two-shilling Mauritius.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

FROM a variety of circumstances, which it is unnecessary to recapitulate here, we have been unable to continue our usual article on our *confrères*, but we have now much pleasure in resuming our pen, and shall endeavour to analyse contemporary publications in the same frank and friendly spirit which it has always been our aim to manifest.

The Philatelist maintains its character as a high-class and valuable journal, full of useful information and interesting reading. The current number contains an announcement to the effect that supplements will be given from time to time, and a number of articles, by experienced writers, are promised.

The most noticeable feature in the present number is Mr. Stourton's reply to Mr. Atlee's attack on his prize essay on Swiss stamps. We are not going to discuss the merits or demerits of that essay in detail; that it was not, however, a very valuable contribution to stamp lore is now generally admitted; but we think the style in which the controversy is carried on is capable of improvement, and that this is the opinion of the editor of *The Philatelist* is, we think, evident from some remarks in his New Year's address, in which he deprecates dissensions among philatelists. Mr. Atlee, in his attack, lays great stress on the fact that the essay was written by JOHN MARMADUKE STOURTON, and repeatedly notices it in the course of his critique, but surely it is no more a disadvantage to Mr. Stourton to have been christened John Marmaduke, than it is an advantage to Mr. Atlee to be styled "W. Dudley," and certainly the names of the disputants neither add to, nor take away from, the value of their assertions with respect to the Swiss stamps. We should not presume to give Mr. Atlee a lesson in the art of using sarcasm as a weapon, nor is there any necessity to impress on Mr. Stourton the excellence of modesty, but we do not mind saying that it is possible to show a brother collector his error in amicable terms, and if the said brother "doesn't see it," he might justify his want of perception in moderate language. So much for personal questions. If in the

exercise of a benevolent neutrality we have managed to offend both combatants, as third parties generally do, we shall still have the satisfaction of having protested against the introduction of undue acerbity into philatelic discussions.

Le Timbre-Poste, which has become the sole influential representative of foreign philatelists since the siege of Paris, continues to appear with its usual regularity, and its pages are never wanting in interest. In the present number there are two good articles, the first on the stamps of Providence (Rhode Island), the second on two newly-discovered varieties of Finnish envelopes. The former article is devoted to a very close—almost too close—analysis of a sheet of the Providence five-cent stamps, whence the writer demonstrates that the twelve stamps of which the sheet is composed, were all separately engraved. He further argues that the ten-cent stamp was never officially issued, but that, in fact, it owes its existence to a blunder of the engraver. The sheet, whence he describes, is composed of four rows of three stamps, eleven out of the twelve stamps thus formed are of the value of five cents, but the twelfth is inscribed "ten cents," and there is good reason to suppose that the word "ten" was written by mistake. With regard to the forgeries of these stamps, the following remarks are valuable:—

The false stamps can easily be recognised. The five cents has been copied from a type having the word CENTS without punctuation, and with the five balls (or pearls) in the upper part of the oval. This oval measures on the outside $23\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres wide, and $18\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres high. The lines which form the frame of one of the imitations, have a double thickness to left, and right, and below, whilst in the real stamps only the lines on the right and below show the double thickness. The lettering of the inscription on the ten cents is much thinner; the o of PROV. especially is desperately thin, compared with the genuine. The dimensions are, above all, noticeable— $22\frac{1}{2}$ mill. by $17\frac{1}{2}$ mill. As to the design, the imitations are so gross, that no one who has once seen the genuine stamps can mistake them.

The article on the Finland stamps is devoted to the consideration of a 5 kop. indigo and 10 cents carmine (1850 type) on blue paper. The specimens from which M. Moens describes were cut round, but he very cleverly proves that they must be portions of covers, and not envelopes. The only difficulty presented by the stamps lies in the postmarks,

which, with one exception, bear the date 1858. This, however, is successfully disposed of by the writer, and 1850 satisfactorily fixed as the date of emission.

The American Stamp Mercury.—The current impression consist of three "whole numbers," as they are termed in American parlance, it being, in fact, intended to do duty for three months,—October, November, and December, 1870,—and accordingly it is accompanied by three "gratis" stamps. The number opens with a prospectus for 1871, in which the reader is informed that the "centre page" is in future to be omitted, to afford facilities for giving large illustrations, such as post cards, war envelopes, &c., a facility of which we hope the publisher will not hesitate to avail himself. The number of pages will vary from twenty to forty, "according to press of matter [and matter in press?], number of advertisements, and subscribers." The editor frankly announces his intention to republish all the original articles which appear in this and other magazines, and to accompany the reprints with editorial notes. This will be by no means a bad plan, especially if applied to contributions which have been some time in print. In our own magazine there have appeared many articles on the stamps of different countries, which were of considerable value when they appeared, but of which certain portions have been rendered obsolete by the march of knowledge. Were they now to be reprinted with explanatory notes, and the necessary additions to bring them up to date, they would, we are persuaded, be of much use to collectors, who lack either the time or the knowledge to make the needed corrections when reading these articles in their original form.

In fulfilment of his intention to reprint, the editor gives an instalment of Mr. W. D. Atlee's paper on "Errors of Engraving," to which succeeds an article on "New Stamps," and this in turn is followed by a really excellent and comprehensive article, by Mr. John E. Robson, on "Provisional Stamps." It is written in a freer and more graceful style than that which usually characterises the compositions of American writers, and it is a pity that it should be disfigured, as it

certainly is, by the proof-reader's carelessness. When we see, in a quotation from Levrault, that a stamp "n'a jamicies existe," the effect of this statement on the mind resembles the effect on the ears produced by drawing a pencil at a very acute angle across a slate. Again, "Kanton Berve" is a rough way of writing "Kanton Bern," and surely there was no necessity for referring to the "Connal" stamp.

The Mercury winds up with a sharp but well-merited criticism on the latest edition of Lallier, from the pen of Mr. W. R. Balch. We, for our part, have given up the attempt to review this work. We have been at the pains of pointing out, more than once, the numerous errors which render the album unworthy the support of collectors, but, as its author chooses to pursue his vagaries, there is nothing for it but to let him go his way.

The American Journal of Philately. The number before us completes the third volume of this journal; with it is given a sheet containing engravings of the 10 stamps forming the 1870 issue of the United States, printed in their proper colours, or a near approach thereto; and to prevent the chance of their being fraudulently employed, they are all marked with the word specimen, in small letters. The contents of the number are not, as a whole, very interesting, a long list of match stamps forming the leading feature; and an inordinate proportion of the total space being occupied with reviews. In the article on new stamps we find the following piece of information as to the cause of the suppression of the 1869 series of United States stamps.

We are now enabled to inform our readers and friends of the press of a little circumstance that has been kept pretty well concealed, but perhaps these few lines may open the eyes of the people who pay the taxes. After a few hundred sheets of the fifteen and twenty-four cent stamps of the 1869 issue had been delivered, it was discovered that a few of the stamps on each sheet had the picture inverted in the frames. The government refused to receive them, and only half sheets of those values were issued. This mistake would have compelled the company to prepare new plates for these values, and of course they would not have been paid for them, so they adopted the bright dodge of setting the papers to run down the new issue, so that they would be required to get new plates by the department, which they would be paid for. We all know how well they succeeded; however, to philatelists this makes two interesting varieties which are very scarce.

There is probably a great deal of truth in these statements, but the 1869 series, as a whole, justly merited the condemnation it received.

We have never had the pleasure of reviewing the weekly edition of the *A. J. P.*, and it appears that we never shall have it, unless we content ourselves with the examination of the numbers already in existence, as, if the statement made in a contemporary be well founded, the weekly edition has been dropped. We are sorry, but not altogether surprised that the speculation has proved an unsuccessful one; if we may be permitted to make a bad pun, the weekly was never strong; it was, in fact, but the shadow of the monthly, and had no independent existence of its own, but we should have been glad to learn that the steam-press which the publishers had set up for the printing off of the edition had been working over-time, instead of being, as it now is, "locked out."

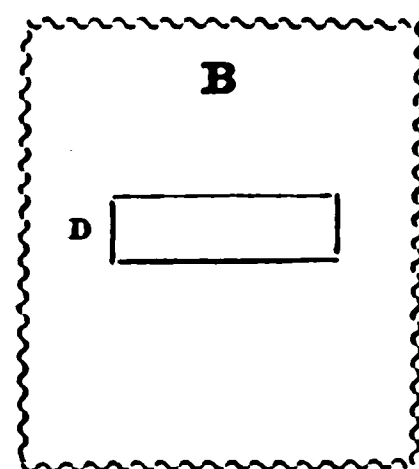
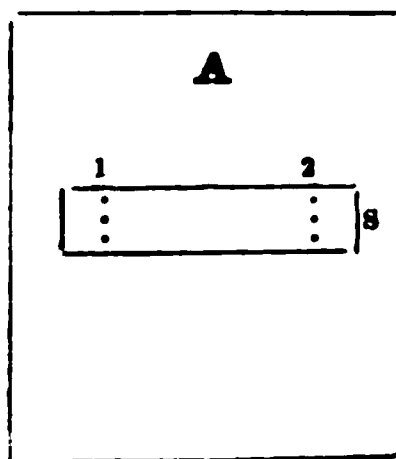
Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine again merits the reproach of being all "coin" and no "stamp." The Philatelic department is compressed into a page and a half, and nearly a third of this space is occupied with a list of "private proprietary stamps."

Le Kuriosi Kabinet has reached its fourth number, the first page of which contains an article relating, as we at first supposed, to craniology. Read by phonetic light, however, the title "Amerikan and Yúropian skúlz" resolves itself into "American and European schools," and we "guess" the paper discusses their respective merits. We have not ventured to attempt to decipher the entire article, but with infinite pains we have managed to translate the following paragraph:—

The margin of a postage stamp is of as much importance as that of any other engraving, and we consider any radical change (*cény*) in the paper, such as perforation, watermark, or quality, as noteworthy as an alteration in the engraving.

These observations are wise and truthful, and if the rest of the paper is made up of equally sensible remarks, we can only say, it is a pity it is not written in "plain English," for then we could have given our contemporary's notions on a difficult question in their entirety.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide is a new paper, hailing from Meriden, Connecticut. It starts with a good stock of buncombe and assurance, and manifests its contempt for all collectors who are not of the American school, whatever that may be. The publishers say, "We shall mail a few thousand copies of this number of the *Guide* free to our old customers who have not yet subscribed;" and it is, perhaps, with a view to lessening the cost of this operation, that the *Guide* is printed on a sheet of note-sized paper, as even "a few thousands" of a larger journal could not be got ready without considerable outlay. Deduction made of superfluous brag, our little contemporary contains some readable matter, and its new plan for mounting stamps is worth mentioning. It consists in fastening to the blank space on which the stamp is to be mounted a slip of paper about a quarter of an inch wide, and not quite so long as the stamp is broad. Two vertical slits are cut in this slip of paper, a second slip is gummed to the stamp itself, and all that has to be done to mount the stamp is to pass the end of the slip attached to the stamp through the two slits in the slip which is fastened to the page. The annexed diagrams will make this clear. A represents the space on the page, S the slip attached to the page, and 1 and 2 the two slits. B represents the back of the stamp, and D the slip which has to be passed through the slits.



THE POST UNDER CHARLES I.—The following curious account of early postal arrangements occurs in Taylor's *Carrier's Cosmography* (1637): "Those that will send any letter to Edinbrough, that so they may be conveyed to and fro to any parts of the kingdome of Scotland, the poste doth lodge at the signe of the King's Armes, at the upper end of Cheapside, from whence, every Monday, any that have occasion may send."

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR IN-
EDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN
*THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGA-
ZINE* FOR 1870.

(Continued from page 4.)

Helsingfors.
(See Russia.)

Holst.
(See Denmark.)

Holland.
1867-8 series. Col. imp.; unperf. rect.
(varieties).
1 cent green.
5 „ blue.
10 „ carmine.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Large numeral in circle, inscriptions in upper
and lower margins. [TE BETALEN
PORT.] Col. imp. on col. paper.;
rect. perf.
5 cent brown on yellow paper.
10 „ dark blue on blue „

Italy.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Large numeral in white oval, inscriptions in
upper and lower margins. [SEGNA
TASSE]. Col. imp.; obl. perf.
Figure deep carmine, frame yellow.
1, 2, 5, 30, 40, 50, and 60 centesimi.
Figure brown and frame blue.
1, 2 lire.

Koorshrijah.

Hindoo characters on solid ground in oblong
frame, struck by hand at the post-
office on letters.
Black [presumed value 1 anna].

Lruant,

or Russian Steam Navigation Company.

(See Russia.)

Mauritius.

Series of 1863. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Sixpence dark green.
One shilling blue.

Mexico.

SECOND REPUBLIC.

Reprinted series of 1861. Col. imp.; rect.
(variety).
1 real black on lilac.

Natal.

PROVISIONAL SERIES.

Series of 1867-9. Surcharged POSTAGE in
black ink. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
One penny carmine.
Threepence blue.
Sixpence deep lilac.
Shilling green.

Newfoundland.

Portrait of Queen in widow's weeds, in
arched frame; figures in upper
corners [NEWFOUNDLAND.] Col. imp.;
rect. perf.
Three cents red.
Six „ carmine.

New Granada.

Arms in circle, inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE
COLOMBIA; above, in curved line,
CORREOS NALES. Col. imp.; large
rect.
20 (veinte) centavos blue.
Bent escutcheon, inclining to right, in tri-
angular frame. CORREOS NALES EE.
UU. DE COLOMBIA. Black imp.;
trian.

2½ centavos, black on deep violet.

Arms surrounded by inscription ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA, and nine
stars in circle; CORREOS NALES on
scroll in upper margin; figure 25
repeated on five small disks on
either side, forming the margin.
Black. imp.; large rect.

25 centavos bluish grey.

Arms surrounded by nine stars and in-
scription, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE, in
square disk; COLOMBIA immediately
below; CORREOS in upper, NACIO-
NALES in lower margin. Col. imp.;
rect.

50 centavos green.

Arms and stars in circle, inscribed in its
upper half EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA;

in its lower half, CORREOS NALES.
Col. imp.; rect.

1 peso flesh.

Arms surmounted by stars, and with EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA in an irregular disk, CORREOS NACIONALES on arched scroll at the angles, large figure 5 on circular disk in the centre of each of the four sides, small figure 5 in each of four circles, formed by curves of the scroll, and small numeral v. in the outer angles. Black imp.; large rect.

5 pesos green.

Arms and inscription, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA, in irregular frame, CORREOS NACIONALES above, figure 10 in centre of lower margin. Col. imp.; large rect.

10 pesos.

NEW SERIES.

Inscription EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA on an ornamental label rather below the centre of the stamp, arms and stars above, CORREOS NALES below, figure 5 in four corners. Col. imp.; rect.

5 centavos, pale yellow.

REGISTRATION STAMP.

Letter R and three stars in circle, inscription REGISTRO and six stars in surrounding border; CORREOS NALES in upper, EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA in lower margin. Black imp.; rect.

5 centavos black.

VIGNETTE.

Flag curved round its staff, and inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA CERTIFICACION CON CONTENIDO; VALE CINCUENTA CENTAVOS; square stamp on each side, with large figure 50 in centre of circle, and inscription CORREOS NACIONALES in surrounding border; below, in a straight line SALIO DE.....EN DE..... DE 187; and below this again a ruled space for the address. Col. imp.

50 centavos, flag yellow, blue, and red; rest of design in black on white.

STAMPS OF SEPARATE STATES.

Antioquia.

Arms in sinuous-edged oval frame, inscribed in upper half ES. US. DE COLOMBIA; in lower half ES. DE ANTIOQUIA; in upper margin CORREOS; background lined. Col. imp.; rect.

5 centavos dark green.

Arms in oval, inscribed like previous type; design on unshaded ground. Col. imp.; rect.

2½ centavos pale blue.

Arms surrounded by inscription E. S. DE ANTIOQUIA CORREOS, in circle; scroll above, inscribed ES. US. DE COLOMBIA; ground unshaded. Col. imp.; rect.

10 centavos pale lilac.

Cundinamarca.

Arms, with the word CUNDINAMARCA in a curved line below, in an irregular oval frame; curved labels above and below, the upper inscribed CORREOS. Col. imp.; rect.

5 centavos blue.

Arms and stars in circle, inscribed CORREOS CUNDINAMARCA, in ornamental frame. Col. imp.; rect.

5 centavos blue.

10 „ red.

Tolima.

Inscription: EE. UU. DE C—E. S. DEL T—CORREOS DE L'ESTADO—VALE 5 CTS.—in four lines, in oblong type-set border of stars. Black imp.; small oblong.

5 centavos black, on bluish paper.

New South Wales.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left in inscribed oval, contained within an hexagonal frame; spandrels of interlaced lines. [NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE.] Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Sixpence lilac.

Sydney.

ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER

1849. Arms of Great Britain, with the word SIDNEY below, in circle, inscribed GENERAL POST OFFICE, NEW

SOUTH WALES; impressed in white relief, on wrappers or envelopes.
One penny white.

North German Confederation.
(See German Confederation, North.)

Norway.

Bergen.

Large numeral in circular frame, inscribed
BYPOST BERGEN; lined spandrels.

Col. imp.; rect.

2 skilling bright vermilion.

Paraguay.

Lion supporting pole, on which is the cap of
Liberty. [REPUBLICA DEL PARA-
GUAY.] Col. imp.; rect.

1 real (lion in circle) carmine rose.

2 " (" oval) dark blue.

3 " (" lozenge) black.

(To be concluded in our next.)

THE PHILADELPHIA POSTMEN.

IN France the postmen, when New Year's Day is near at hand, give a gentle hint to their clients that the appropriate moment for bestowing *étrennes* has arrived, by leaving an almanack for the ensuing year—said almanack having at the back, in small type, an epitome of the postal regulations. This almanack-card is got up in several styles, commencing with plain black and white printing, and a coloured paper edge, and rising to gilt edges and coloured lithographs, and those from whom the largest donations are expected get the richest cards. The wise postmen of Philadelphia have, however, improved somewhat on the French idea, by issuing a little sixteen-page pamphlet, containing much readable, and some valuable information. Title, the book has none, but on the coloured wrapper there appears a representation of a rather care-worn postman, with his U. M. bag under his arm, standing in a meditative attitude beside a lamp pillar-post, that is to say, a lamp-post, round which is attached, about half-way down, a letter-box. The snow is falling fast around him, but does not prevent him

from uttering the good wishes printed above and below the engraving—"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

The book opens with a poetical address by Miss Laura L. Rees, dedicated to the Philadelphia letter-carriers. It is rather serious reading, but it finishes up with a humorous stroke, of which Miss Laura L. Rees is conscious, and may be proud:—

All honour, then, to those whose well-try'd worth,
Though truly known, is passed so lightly by—
The messengers who bear the *leaves* of earth
O'er life's dark waters to the anxious eye.

The idea of comparing postmen to doves is new, but striking. If postmen should ever form a society or trades-union, they might take the hint, and adopt the gentle bird as their symbol.

After being addressed in verse by Miss Laura F. Rees, the letter-carriers get analysed in prose by Mr. James Rees. Mr. Rees explains how it is the carrier system came to be introduced into postal operations, and shows that the object of the Postal System (capital letters) is to bring the whole country "under one great Postal Head"—an impressive and reverential way of alluding to the postmaster-general. Mr. Rees is glad the United States cannot boast that its post-office yields a profit, for that very boast would be a reflection on its success; but a couple of sentences further on he expresses the belief that "the time is not far distant when it can be made a source of revenue"—if so, there will be reflections made in the shape of boasting.

Mr. Rees is evidently anxious to prove that just at present it is an advantage for the United States post-office department that there is an annual loss on its operations; but we fancy Mr. Cresswell would like to show a balance on the right side at the end of the year, and would care very little for reflections.

The letter-carriers of Philadelphia (by the way there are no "postmen" there) have a warm friend in Mr. Rees, who declares them to be, as they no doubt are, a very deserving class of men. He gives a number of directions to correspondents, whereby they may aid carriers, and also ensure prompt delivery of their letters, and plainly hints that if

letters miscarry or are delayed, it is generally the writers who are to blame, and not the carriers.

There is another class of people with whose misdeeds the post-office often gets credited, and that is the class of "boxholder's messengers." As our readers are probably aware, the system of renting private letter-boxes at the post-office is carried on in America to a great extent. The carriers drop all letters that arrive for the boxholder into his box, and the "boxholder's messenger" comes and clears out the contents of the box. Their office is one of trust, and it is often abused. "Scarcely a week passes without the detection of a boxholder's messenger in purloining the letters of his employer. There is hardly a publishing house of importance in the city referred to which has not suffered in this way—the largest of them to the extent of thousands of dollars—through the dishonesty of *three* of its messengers, detected in succession."

Following Mr. Rees' address, comes a list of Philadelphia postmasters, from which we learn the rather interesting fact, that the first one was licensed by William Penn, in 1683. Fifty years after, Benjamin Franklin was nominated to the post, and remained in Philadelphia until he became the "Postal Head" of the colonies. During the present century, no less than fifteen postmasters have been appointed to Philadelphia, and the present holder of the position is a military man—General Henry H. Bingham.

The pamphlet before us winds up with a post-office guide, giving a number of useful details with regard to postage, hours of mailing, &c. From this we learn, among other things, that the two-cent stamps are used for the prepayment of letters addressed to places within the *county* of Philadelphia, and prepayment is obligatory.

The fees for money-orders are comparatively high, the lowest for international ones being thirty cents, which may be made up of ten cents in paper money, and twenty in gold; the lowest for "domestic" money orders (*qy.*, remittances from man to wife, or father to son) is ten cents.

The post-office calls the special attention of the community to the government stamped

envelopes, as being cheaper and affording greater security to correspondents than ordinary envelopes. Moreover, though the stamps may not be cut out of the envelopes and used separately, if any are spoilt in directing, they may be exchanged against adhesives in the office of the town where they were bought.

Letters are now delivered free at the recipient's house, and a number of rules are given with respect to the modes of addressing them; among other things it is requested that letters sent to strangers or visitors to a town, whose special address may be unknown, be marked "Transient" on the lower left-hand corner.

The arrangements for quarterly prepayment of newspapers are very liberal; dailies may thus be prepaid at the rate of thirty-five cents, and weeklies at five cents per quarter, but any single paper of which the quarterly postage has not been prepaid is charged two cents; there is, therefore, a great encouragement given to the public to subscribe for at least a quarter to their paper.

The rates for foreign letters seem, on the whole, lower than ours. They average ten cents per half ounce; the highest rate is twenty-eight cents for letters to Buenos Ayres, Spain, and Portugal, *viâ* England; the lowest is three cents (the same as the inland postage), to the Bahamas, and Nassau, New Providence.

We have now come to the end of the interior of the pamphlet before us. At the back of the wrapper we find a further instalment of poetry, an address containing a hint to which we imagine its readers could hardly fail to respond:—

The letter carrier's New Year's call,—
He's waiting at the door ;|
How many times within the year,
You've met him there before ?
You've learnt to know his footstep,
To listen for his ring,
And hasten eagerly to find
What tidings he will bring.

Though scorching be the summer's heat,
Though wintry winds may roar,
He brings his treasures daily,
And leaves them at your door.
These letters, what a volume
Of smiles, and doubts, and fears ;
Of hopes that quickly vanish,
Of joys that last for years !

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FRANCE.—The provincial series has just been completed by the emission of stamps of 5, 30, and 40 centimes. We have ourselves only seen the 5 and 30 c., both are roughly designed, and are unmistakable lithographs, probably the 40 c. is no better. The 5 c. made its appearance about New Year's Day, and although this year there has been but little visiting, and many persons have abstained from sending out cards, still a large number were used. Since then, our Boulogne correspondent has seen but very few. The five cents, contrary to expectation, is of the same type as the higher values; as it is intended for printed matter, it had been supposed that the design of the 1, 2, and 4 c. would be adopted. The colour of the three stamps forming the complement of the provincial series are as follow:

- 5 centimes green, pale and dark.
- 30 " brown, dark brown.
- 40 " vermilion and orange.

M. Moens announces in his current number, that he has received information from a friend in Paris, that the perforated 40 centimes was issued there about the middle of last month; for what special purpose he does not say, but it looks as if the post had decided to remove the restriction as to weight on balloon letters, and allow a double weight letter to be sent for 40 centimes.

PORTUGAL.—A new 5 reis stamp has just been issued, of which the annexed engraving is a not altogether satisfactory copy, the portrait being roughly done, and the line of perforation omitted. In point of fact, the new type is a very pleasing one; the design is compact and clear, and the effigy superior to that of the last issue. The young king certainly shows to much greater advantage, and has exchanged the rather plebeian nose with which Mr. C. Wiener presented him, on the preceding 5 c., for a more shapely and aristocratic-looking feature; besides this, the lips are adorned with a neat moustache

above, and budding imperial below; altogether, the portrait is that of a worthy young gentleman of the period.

The new stamp was not produced before it was needed, the old type being nearly worn out. A copy of the old 5 c. now before us, shows the upper part of the stamp almost bare of shading, and the figure 5 in the upper left corner has a white patch in front. The new comer has the design in relief, is printed in black, and perforated, like its predecessor.

HOLLAND.—A half-cent stamp of the arms type, has just made its appearance; colour, a very light brown, on white paper, and perforated.

The promised post-cards have also been issued; they are close copies of the English, being light buff in colour, with the border inscription and stamp in lilac; we say the stamp, but one of the two is without any stamp whatever, and represents a fresh extension of the post-card system, it being intended for communications to foreign countries. We hope to see this bright idea utilised by other states, accompanied, of course, by special reduced rates for the card-letters.

The stamp which adorns the inland card is a copy of the central portion of the design of the arms series of adhesives; the shield and crown are surrounded by a wreath, and the whole is enclosed in a beaded circle, with the word NEDERLAND in a curved line above, and the value—2½ cent—below. The inscription on both cards consists of the word BRIEFKAART, in the centre, followed by three lines for the address, and in the lower margin is a four-line explanatory note.

BELGIUM.—This country has followed its neighbour's lead, in the act, if not in the idea of emitting post-cards. The law ordaining their issue was dated the 15th May last, but a change having taken place lately in the government, the new minister felt it his duty to raise certain objections to the design for the card approved by his predecessor, and hence arose a delay in executing the law. However, the cards are at length in circulation; they are of a yellowish tint, and bear a brown impression from the 5 centimes die (arms), a circumstance which astonishes our

friend M. Moens, who argues that as the arms series is consecrated to the prepayment of newspapers, &c., a "head" stamp ought to have been apposed on these cards, which, in fact, are intended for written correspondence.

The Belgian cards will have a more limited circulation than those of any other country, as they can only be used for communications addressed to persons within the postal district in which they originate; if they are sent to persons out of that district they are considered as letters, and require the addition of a 5 centimes adhesive, to render the prepayment complete; if this stamp is not added, the card is charged for on delivery as an insufficiently stamped letter. When, however, an amount has to be claimed on delivery, the card must first be put in an envelope by the postal officials, and the reason is a curious one. "Pending the issue of official cards," says M. Moens, "the public, who desired to turn to account, without delay, the privilege accorded by the law of the 15th May, 1870, which said 'that the cards should be issued within six months from the promulgation of the law,' put in circulation cards of all shapes. Among the specimens which have been submitted to us, there are some very extraordinary ones: thus, we find an invitation to the last Ghémarr fête, serving, thanks to a written inscription, as an invitation to dinner. There were also ball-tickets, visiting-cards, and commercial address-cards, which, by the simple application of a five-centime stamp, and the naïve inscription 'Carte-correspondance,' were utilised in the legal sense. They were at first distributed without any extra charge, then double the rate of an ordinary letter was required, because the cards had not been issued by the post." To this demand the public replied by reading the contents of the cards, and then returning them to the postman without paying the charge: it is to this practice that we owe the 7th article of the ministerial decree, ordaining that insufficiently prepaid cards shall be put in envelopes before being tendered to the recipients.

Beside the impression from the five-cent die, the post-card bears in its centre the national arms, surmounted by a crown, and

on either side are placed allegorical figures, representing industry, commerce, &c., &c.; the design is completed by inscriptions in Flemish and French, describing the use and value of the cards.

TASMANIA.—The well-known and too-long current series is at length relegated to the region of the obsolete, and the neat design here represented takes its place. It will be noticed that the word POSTAGE does not appear on the stamp, and it is to be presumed that the new set will be used for fiscal as well as postal purposes. Up to the present four values have made their appearance, viz:

One penny rose, watermark 10.	
Twopence green,	2.
Fourpence blue,	4.
Tenpence black,	10.

The watermark 10 is shared by the penny and by the new value, the tenpence; the figure two, with which the twopence is watermarked, is formed of a single line; the other figures are double-lined italics.

There remain to appear the sixpence and shilling, in the new type, and as both values are much employed, we may anticipate that their emission will not be long delayed.

SPAIN.—It appears that after all the new series of stamps to which we alluded last month is not to appear; the accession of King Amadeus is to be postally recognised, without delay, in the shape of a set of stamps bearing his portrait; and they will certainly be more preferable than a repetition of hideous would-be symbolical designs. We suppose it would not be "the thing" to introduce a likeness of Marshal Prim into the projected series, but it certainly would not be doing too much honour to the man who sacrificed his life in the cause of liberty.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—Two new values have made their appearance:—

5 centimes yellow-green.	
25 " dark brown.	

The former is no doubt intended for printed matter; the latter rather freely represents a value of 2 groschen, and will probably be used for letters to Germany. Both values

are of the same type as the four first-issued stamps, but seeing that the intention to annex the conquered provinces is becoming daily more pronounced, we are rather surprised to find that the denominations continue to be expressed in French money only. When Schleswig-Holstein was annexed, the provisional stamps issued on the occasion bore the value in German as well as in Danish currency.

SWITZERLAND.—In the December number of *Le Timbre-Poste* a couple of columns are devoted to a laboured description of certain field-post envelopes, which had just been issued for the use of the Swiss troops employed in guarding the frontier. We, for our part, felt that these envelopes merited only the most cursory mention, and therefore simply alluded to the fact of their emission; our justification for so doing is found in the following paragraph in the present number of our Belgian contemporary. "The field-post envelopes are no longer worth counting, we already possess *forty varieties*."

UNITED STATES.—We reprinted, in our impression for September last, the advertisement of the United States Postmaster General, calling for tenders for a new set of envelopes, and prescribing conditions for the supply. We have since been awaiting receipt of intelligence respecting this new series, but it appears that the series commenced last summer has been at last accepted and issued in its entirety. The following information respecting it is taken from the current number of *The American Stamp Mercury*. The new contractors not being able to engrave the stamps in the manner desired by the department, the contract has been re-awarded to Mr. S. H. Reay, and the envelopes, with the exception of the 7-cent, have been forwarded to the various offices for use. We have received a set of 24 varieties, and believing that some of our readers would like a description of them, we append it below:—

1 cent blue on cream,	5½ by 3¼ in.
2 " brown "	5½ " 3¼ "
2 " " on orange,	5½ " 3¼ "
2 " " "	6¼ " 3½ "
3 " green on white,	3¼ " 2⅞ "
3 " " "	5½ " 3¼ "

3 cent green on white,	6¼ by 3½ in.
3 " " "	6¼ " 4 "
3 " " on cream,	5½ " 3¼ "
3 " " "	6¼ " 3½ "
3 " " on melon,	5½ " 3¼ "
3 " " "	8⅞ " 4 "
6 " red on white,	5½ " 3¼ "
6 " " "	8⅞ " 4 "
6 " " on cream,	5½ " 3¼ "
6 " " on melon,	8⅞ " 4 "
10 " brown on cream,	5½ " 3¼ "
10 " " on white,	5½ " 3¼ "
12 " slate "	10¼ " 4¼ "
15 " orange "	10¼ " 4¼ "
24 " violet "	10¼ " 4¼ "
30 " black "	10¼ " 4¼ "
90 " carmine "	10¼ " 4½ "

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The twopence now comes over with a new watermark, similar to that of the other Australian colonies—a crown and the letters S. A.

VICTORIA.—M. Moens notices a current sixpence watermarked *Fourpence*.

NOTES AND COMMENTARIES ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS.

BY E. L. PEMBERTON.

In your last volume (page 111) is a letter vouching for the genuine nature of the (so stated) slate-coloured Barbados, and claiming to fix its value at twopence. The existence of such a stamp should not be difficult to prove beyond dispute, if the postmaster of the island remembers it. Is there no official record of its being required, ordered, or sold to the public?

"Fentonia" asserts that it is a changeling, whilst "Bridgetown" is positive that it is genuine, and sufficiently plainly asserts that it is an imperforate stamp, which "passed current, though for a short time," years ago, to bind himself to do his utmost to establish by proof, that which he, so far, only substantiates by assertion. If nothing precise be forthcoming from the order-book of the secretary mentioned, there is yet another course open, and, to my mind, the more satisfactory of the two. "Bridgetown" says, that some years since he found in Martinique, three or four letters, each of which bore the fourpenny, and a half of one of these distrusted slate

coloured twopenny labels, making up the requisite fivopenny postage. Can he not send one of these halves to the publishers of this magazine? It would certainly be impartially tested, and if proved to be a genuine shade, not due to chemical agency, why Bridgetown's specimen, though in penny numbers and incomplete, would be of fabulous value—a pearl beyond price.

Speaking without bias, and, of course, without any positive knowledge—which is just what is wanted—I consider the stamp doubtful as a genuine shade. The stamps of Barbados and Trinidad, of the imperforate and early imperfectly perforate periods, are to be obtained by the thousand. I have had huge bundles of them, embracing all years and well assorted, yet I have never found anything which could be called slate-coloured. The blue-paper series I have had in profusion in all values, and even the native Trinidads I have occasionally found in some abundance. In such varied assortments, it appears to me well nigh impossible that there should have been no specimen, or half specimen, of the slate-coloured Barbados, had such a thing existed. If this should turn out a genuine stamp, I shall feel great surprise. I contend that no West Indian colonial of the low value of twopence could be so scarce as to be *unknown*; and indeed I might almost say the same of any colony, when the circumstances or characters of other unattainables are explained—try British Guiana, even of the blue oblong there are many known copies; of the red there are more; the earlier rectangular *patinus* 1 and 4 c. are comparatively profuse, though the still earlier circular ones are the rarest of all. All these are spoken of as unattainable, yet, though they are of the highest rarity, they are to be had now and again—no other values were issued with them; but this slate coloured Barbados formed one of a set, and from the earliest period of the set's emission, each type has been obtainable in great profusion.

I do not think that any colonial (not purely local) could have existed for any time, and not have been known before now. There is no precedent for it, not even the early embossed Sydney post-office, for that

was purely local, only franked a letter in the precincts of the town, and was a wrapper or cover, so everything favoured its being quite forgotten. After the resuscitation last year of six unused copies, a cut one was found in an old album, where it had been placed as the seal of the Sydney post-office, and not as a postal label. It had been there for many years; and its existence previous to the resuscitation mentioned is ample proof that an unknown type of a colony with which a large commercial correspondence is maintained, should be accepted with excessive caution. With varieties of types (I mean paper and perforation) this, of course, does not hold good; *not* finding a chronicled *variety* is no certain proof of its non-existence. When a variety has been in use only a short time, it is likely that its use may have been very partial—almost local, in fact—and our not finding it may be due to the lots through which we are hunting not containing specimens from the localities in which the variety was most used. With a type or different value, it is different; if they are not used by the public for the purpose desired, they will not be left on hand, but will be used for other rates.

This subject, of what may be termed the localisation of varieties, is curious. To explain thoroughly what I mean, I will show the localisation of the three known varieties of our current English stamps. Of the one penny, some few were issued (by accident, no doubt) imperforate. One might search over millions of used ones for this variety, and leave off without belief in it, for it would never be found, unless one got hold of a batch of letters stamped at Cardiff, as there only did the sheet or sheets go. Of the sixpenny stamps there were some issued imperforate, these were purely local too. They were doubtless the result of oversight, and very few could have escaped. Another variety of this value has no watermark; the only sheet noticed was found in Malta, from which circumstance M. Moens at once inferred it was issued for that island, and chronicles it as so belonging. A *variety* may remain undiscovered for years; a *type* hardly ever; a *value*, one altogether unrepresented, I should feel inclined to affirm, never.

In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (Nos. 93 and 94) is a disquisition on the Portland local. The editor of *The Philatelist* quotes me as a believer in it. I certainly am, because my information came through a reliable and unimpeachable source. *The Philatelist's* editor's mistake is in quoting the bare assertion of such a mendacious meddler as S. A. Taylor; it is simply folly, and I trust after all that has been written, the impropriety of a member of the Society's Committee patting this man on the back, as it were, may never be repeated. I have before expressed myself on this subject, in a letter which you published, so I need not repeat reasons why I consider such "patting on the back" rather insulting to other members on the committee.

Of the reality of existence of the Portland local I have not a doubt. I need not explain its use, as that has already been done in these pages more than five years ago (see vol. iii., p. 137). The specimen mentioned as belonging to Mr. Hayns, that gentleman had from me. There is not a doubt of its genuine nature, and I can procure more from the unimpeachable source I first mentioned.

In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (No. 93) are some remarks on 1867 *Guadalajara* of a second type. I do not know how many collectors may have speculated in these, of which M. Mahé appears to have been the sole recipient, but the following remarks, read after your notes on p. 154, will add to the already general distrust, and, without throwing any slur on M. Mahé (to whose integrity all can testify), will call for an explanation when communication is again established with Paris. The second type claims to have formed either part (or all) of the stock remaining in the post-office of the penta-syllabic town or city. Under any circumstances it is improbable that only specimens of a *totally unknown type* were there. Indeed, I can imagine no circumstance under which such a thing was likely or possible, neither can I call to mind any precedent for such a curious occurrence. It is easy to reckon up posthumous values (as Spain, 1857, 12 c.) by the score, but posthumous types I cannot understand, and in this case—though I may remember other posthumous single and singular departures

from normal characteristics—I cannot accredit so many as being genuine. Had there been but one, it might have passed, but we are asked for too much faith.

I am, perhaps, taking unnecessary pains to fortify myself by good arguments, because in June last the entire stock left in *Guadalajara* came to San Francisco to my order. No more were left *I was told*, and as my lot contained unused 4 rs. eagles, unused lithographed Maximilian 13 c. indigo, and 1 and 2 rs. 1868, with 4 rs. and 1 peso 1867 provisional, I quite believe no more were left. As I instructed the house in San Francisco to buy up every provisional to be had, and as the lot I obtained exhausted the post-office stock, it is not likely that a perfectly fresh type (obtained direct) of 1867 was genuine. If they were, they would have gone to San Francisco in June, and not to M. Mahé, or his agents, in September. I cannot speak my opinion of the second type more clearly. It is curious that no copies, or even copy, of the white *medio* came over, so that still remains the rarity. The *un* peso (small *un*, instead of *Un*) is also very scarce. So, too, are the curiously perforated things, many pointed, in size and appearance like unto reel-top labels. The eccentricities of the *Guadalajara* provisionals must be seen to be appreciated, or even believed. There are so many values, so many colours, so many papers, and three distinct years of emission, all so mixed, intermingled, muddled, and perplexed, that the marvel is to find any two alike. In England we unfortunately discredited them when they came over first, and thus lost our opportunity for ever, of obtaining the rarer varieties. They are not a subject to be heedlessly entered upon. I know no one who can so meander at ease through their wanderings over the simple and compound colours of the prism, as to be able to impart any particular amount of knowledge which would prove serviceable. The attempt would not leave the elucidator's own ideas quite so clear as at starting. Seriously speaking, a chronicle is wanted; it can only be made by one who is content to sacrifice his own happiness to the good of a grateful body of philatelists; to swathe his massive brow in towels moistened by water with the chill

on, and to imbibe the strongest saturated solutions of obtainable teas (or of other wakeful herbs, which, by abuse, are synonymous), and who, when all has been brought to a successful ending, will curse the many syllabled name, and be deprived of his natural senses for a season.

On page 112, of vol. viii. (answer to G. W. B.), a difference between some specimens of the 48 c. British Guiana is asserted, and, as having been already noticed, I do not remember ever observing such. Can you refer me to a source of reference?

The very name British Guiana is suggestive of various types, and almost unknown rarities.

It may not be a useless filling up of your space to give an outline reference list of the 1860 and 1863 series. No published catalogue is complete, or notices half those differences in perforation, paper, and colour, which, as much as in any other country, must be carefully considered when one's series is full enough for arrangement, and a knowledge of which is indispensable to all philatelists of the extended school. The obsolete types have been treated upon with such lucidity by Mr. Philbrick, in his well-known article, "The Postage Stamps of British Guiana," that this must be regarded as an appendix, bringing information down to the present time. I commence at

1860.

- M 12.** Very thick paper. 1 c. rose, rose-brown.
2 c. orange v. very dark to very light.
4 c. very deep blue, dull blue, l. and d.
8 c. brown-rose, deep rose, pale rose or pink.
12 c. blue-lilac, dark grey v. to lilac-grey, pearl-grey, dark smoky grey.
24 c. bright green, l. and d.
- Thin paper, white or yellowish. 1 c. deep brown, black.
2 c. orange-yellow v. to brown-yellow.
4 c. dull greeny-blue, l. and d., sky or pale blue, light clear blue.
8 c. rather dull rose, flesh on yellow.
12 c. pale lilac, dark dull lilac, more or less near violet, neutral brown tints, lilac, l. to d.
On white. Delicate violet.
24 c. clear green.
- M 13.** Thin paper. 2 c. brownish-yellow, red-yellow.
4 c. dull greeny-blue.
(1) very yellow. 8 c. flesh, d.
12 c. neutral lilac.
24 c. green.

- (2) white or imperceptibly yellowed. 1 c. grey.
2 c. brown-yellow } paper extra thin and transparent.
4 c. dull blue
8 c. flesh
1 c. black.
2 c. brown-yellow, v. to orange.
4 c. dull blue, green-blue d.
8 c. flesh, pale rose or pink.
- (3) white very thin to thick. 1 c. jet, dull black.
2 c. orange, orange-red, orange-yellow.
4 c. dull blue, green-blue, slate blue.
8 c. flesh, rose-lilac, l.
12 c. grey, l. and d.
24 c. deep green.
- M 10.** white and yellow paper. 1 c. jet, grey-black.
2 c. orange-yellow, orange-red, l., orange, v.
4 c. slate blue, more or less greenish, l. & d.
8 c. flesh, rose-lilac, l. and d.
12 c. lilac, v. lilac-grey, grey, l. and d.
- Im.** Thin paper. 1 c. black } doubtful if ever issued.
4 c. light clear blue }

1863.

- M 12.** Yellow paper. 24 c. yellow-green, v. a little.
48 c. is given by Mahé.
- M 13.** 6 c. green-blue, l. and d.
24 c. yellow-green.
48 c. rose, l.
White paper. 6 c. dark blue, v., sky blue, l. and d.
24 c. yellow-green, bright green, light green, deep emerald green, dark rich green.
48 c. lake, l. and d.
- M 10.** 6 c. dull blue, l., ultramarine.
24 c. bright green (less yellowish than M 13), dark rich green (less dark than darkest M 13.)
48 c. crimson.

In the M 12 series of 1860, the thick and the thin series ought to be both taken, the thick one is the oldest, the colours are very rich, and the paper being of a fine quality, enhances their appearance. They are all scarce unused, the reprints of the 1 c. rose is more of a flesh tint, is on thin paper, and is M 13, instead of 12. In the M 13 series it is a matter of taste and pocket as to the necessity of making up all three series, but the yellowest of No. 1 and the whitest of No. 3 are indispensable.

Fenton's half-scepticism as to the postal character of the Zurich stamps is a thing I never indulged in; there is truth in the remarks as to the word TAXE, and also as to the value being, from time immemorial, chronicled as CENTIMES, when RAPPEN would appear the more probable. I know nothing positively upon which I could assert, *ex cathedra*, that these Zurich are postal stamps, but I do know that it is not likely that Zurich should have its bill stamps foisted on

us as postals, when Berne, with equal opportunities, was unmasked years ago. I dare say that in the pages of *Le Timbre Poste*, a diligent search would show a copy of the official decree, and all papers relating to their issue as postals, but I consider their nature so very certain, that I leave this search to those who have more time to bestow on the entanglement of a long-settled question. The postmark so well known on Zurich stamps, is to be found on the two blues Rayon I., and upon the black on yellow Rayon II. Possibly, from this circumstance, Fentonia would invalidate the postal character of these three stamps. I have also seen this postmark upon the 2½ c. poste locale. As Fentonia hints, there are several varying dies (five of each value), and the diæresis over the u is a sure test of all genuine, but then all good forgeries show it too; they, however, somewhat exaggerate the dots.

RECENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

FORGERIES OF RECENT GRANADINES.—Some months since, through the usual channel (M. Charles Roussin) for those dubious specimens of the earlier issues (concerning the reproduction of which, by means of the stamps themselves, Dr. Magnus wrote at length some months back), came unobliterated copies of 5 and 10 pesos, but disfigured by having a small hole punched out of each, either at top or bottom. It was explained to me, that they were stock in hand, upon the issue of the present larger 5 and 10 pesos, which, after this defacement, were sold at a nominal rate, a reduction which would be a boon to collectors, if they were the real stamps. Unfortunately for our peace of mind and pieces of money, they are gross forgeries, and are far dearer at ten shillings the pair than the genuine things unused at four pounds. They are gross forgeries, as I have said, and may be at once detected by the following shortcomings:—

- 5 pesos. **FORGERY.**—In the oval which surrounds the arms are 26 curls.
GENUINE has 30 curls.
- 10 pesos. **FORGERY.**—Stars irregular, the two lowest being very large; the scroll-like tracery on the scalloped border cannot be clearly

traced. Lettering all uneven and shaky, dots all shapes but rectangular.

GENUINE—Stars regular, all dots and lettering square and true.

The present 25 c. "sobre-porte" also came with these forgeries, penstroked and false. The following differences exist between these and genuine ones:—

GENUINE.	FORGERY.
(1). Interior of scrolls at top shaded by dots.	(1). Left-hand scroll not shaded.
(2). Ring or rope in eagle's back shaded or dotted.	(2). This is quite blank.
(3). The stars are in parts, and have their centre blank.	(3). Stars like asterisks, small, and with too many rays.
(4). Large dot after Columbia.	(4). No dot and the letters smaller.
(5). Dull lightish blue.	(5). A much clearer tint.

The previous 25 c. also exists, forged, with a hole punched out, and having the same legend related about it as the 5 and 10 pesos similarly branded. It may be detected by its light-blue colour, and the fineness of the lines of the ground-work; in the genuine, under the N of CENTS, is a flaw in the engraving, and the eagle's wing touches and goes behind the R of PORTE, both of which points are ignored by the forgers.

Whilst upon the subject of forgeries I would most strongly condemn the practice of Spiro Brothers making and selling forgeries, even though they do not sell them as any thing else than facsimiles (which is the fact); the persons who buy them for re-sale are not so particular. One cannot now find any sheets exhibited in shops by the smaller dealers, which do not contain some one or more of Spiro's forgeries.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Our German contemporary, *Der Briefmarken-Zeitung*, in a short article on the 1853 stamps of this colony, states, that among other differences discernible between the 1853 and 1860 issue, it should be noticed that the ship on the former has a row of port-holes (*Kanonenuken*), which it asserts are wanting in the latter. In reference to this, a correspondent (Fentonia) writes, "It requires better eyes, or stronger magnifiers than mine, to perceive these port-holes, and it is inconsistent with the commercial allusion of the surrounding legend for the ship to carry guns, which would indicate a man-of-war rather than a merchantman. There is certainly a broken line slightly perceptible in the 1853, and not altogether absent in the 1860 issue, but I think it is merely intended to represent the black and white ckecky line generally at that time, and perhaps now, painted round our trading vessels. I believe it has

not before been remarked that the legend, which, with the ship, forms the armorial bearings of British Guiana, is misquoted from Horace (*De Arte Poetica*). The original is '*Petimusque damusque vicissim*.' The first *que* may, perhaps, well be spared, but why *damus* and *petimus* should be transposed is by no means clear, and possibly can only be explained as an oversight of the inventor of the design."

THE OLD NEWSPAPER STAMP.—The old newspaper stamp, abolished on September 30th, 1870, had an existence of 158 years. In the year 1712, Queen Anne sent a message to the House of Commons, complaining of the publication of seditious papers and factious rumours; by which means designing men had been able to sink credit, and the innocent had suffered. On the 12th of February in that year, a committee of the whole House was appointed, to consider the best means for stopping the then existing abuse of the liberty of the press. The evil referred to had existence in the political pamphlets of the period. A tax upon the press was suggested as the best means of remedying the evil; and for the purpose of avoiding a storm of opposition, the impost was tacked on to a bill for taxing soaps, parchment, linens, silks, calicoes, &c. The result of the tax was the discontinuance of many of the favourite papers of the period, and the amalgamation of others into one publication.

The Act, passed in June 1712, came into operation in the month of August following, and continued for 32 years. The stamp was red, and the design consisted of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, surmounted with a crown. In the *Spectator* of June 10th, 1712, Addison makes reference to this subject, and predicts great mortality among "our weekly historians." He also mentions that a facetious friend had described the said mortality as "the fall of the leaf." The witty Dean Swift, in his *Journal to Stella*, under date of August 7th, speaks of Grub Street as being dead and gone. According to his report, the new stamps had made sad havoc with the *Observer*, the *Flying Post*, the *Examiner*, and the *Medley*. He adds "Have you seen the red stamp the papers are marked with? Methinks the stamping is worth a halfpenny."

Twelve years afterwards—namely, in 1724, the House of Commons had under consideration the practices of certain printers, who had evaded the operation of the Stamp Act, by printing the news upon paper between the two sizes mentioned by the law, and entering them as pamphlets, on which the duty to be paid was 3/- for each edition. Its deliberations culminated in a resolution to charge 1d. for every sheet of paper "on which any journal, mercury, or any other newspaper whatever, shall be printed; and for every half sheet thereof, the sum of one halfpenny sterling." In 1761 the stamp duty upon newspapers was made 1d., or £4 1s. 8d. for 1000 sheets. The next change in the stamp duty was effected on the 28th May, 1776, when Lord North advanced the price from 1d. to 1½d. Another alteration was made on the 12th August, 1789. On this occasion the stamp was increased from 1½d. to 2d. In 1794 the stamp went up to 2½d., and in May, 1797, to 3½d. The highest rate of the stamp was obtained in 1815, when the amount was 4d. After this date a period of decline ensued. In the reign of William the Fourth an act was passed for the reduction of stamp duty upon newspapers from 4d. to 1d., and ½d. upon any supplement. This act came into operation on the 15th of September, 1836, from which date the rise of the cheap paper era may be dated. The next improvement occurred in 1855, when the compulsory use of the stamp was abolished, save and except as a means of passing the paper through the post. During the last Session we had the latest touch of stamp-act legislation, when it

was decided to determine the operation of the old act, and to inaugurate a new order of things more in accordance with the liberal spirit of the age.—*Times*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS.

AN AMERICAN MARE'S NEST.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Under the above heading, your correspondent, Mr. W. Dudley Atlee (in the November number of your good paper), has hastily given me a *benefit*, which, not being merited, I *modestly* decline to accept.

I do not for a moment blame this gentleman for attacking F. K. W. in the *liberal* manner he has, it is quite natural; but I would warn Mr. Atlee to practice what he preaches—to "*first make sure he is right, and then go a-head*."

For once he is deeply in error, and will have to re-load in order to shoot the *right* bird.

I deny having written the article referred to, signed F. K. W., and if that unknown does not "*cast off his disguise, and appear unveiled*," the editor of *The American Journal of Philately* will come to my rescue in the next number of that paper, and clearly prove to Mr. Atlee that I am not the person who accuses him of "*devising a swindle*."

I regret that this gentleman should have no better opinion of my judgment as an old and well-known philatelist, than to think me so poorly posted on the subject of the Transvaal stamps.

By inserting this, at your first convenience, in your valuable columns, you will greatly oblige,

Yours truly,

W. K. FREEMAN.

New York.

MR. PEMBERTON'S "HONEST" CRITICISM.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

"The shafts of falsehood unpolluting flew,
And the cold sneers of calumny were vain."
SHELLEY.

DEAR SIR,—If Mr. W. Dudley Atlee's criticism of my Prize Essay, in *The Philatelist* (which has already received a tolerably complete answer at my hands in the January number) was insulting in tone, and exaggerated in statement, Mr. Pemberton's, in your magazine for December, is ten times more so.

Pages may be filled with that tautological style of composition in which Mr. Pemberton so excels—and of which no better example could be found than his last letter to you—before the following facts can be disproved. Not one of the three forgeries of the Vaud stamps has succeeded in reproducing these characteristics of the genuine: viz., "the folds binding the post-horn to the ring containing the cross, on the *left* side, come up to the middle of the large black dot; on the *right*, they do not; and *vice-versa*, in the forgeries."

As Mr. Pemberton is so horrified at any approach to egotism in others, I think he might be a little less egotistical himself, and not claim the authorship, as his own, of a pamphlet, the greater part of which, I know for a fact, was written by Mr. Thornton Lewes.

Mr. Pemberton's assertion that my Prize Essay was mainly copied from my *Vade-mecum* is a most unwarrantable one, and I must repeat that I referred to my little book on one occasion only, when I was in doubt as

to the proper description necessary for the "port local" Geneva. It is preposterous for Mr. Pemberton to talk of any work containing the characteristics of stamps issued so long ago as 1845-50 as being "long out of date, and simply useless for modern requirements." The editor of *The Philatelist* (who, let me add, was a recognized authority long before Mr. Pemberton was heard of) said of my Prize Essay, that the remarks in it were "pertinent, judicious, and correct;" such being the case, assuredly those of Mr. Pemberton are *impertinent, injudicious, and incorrect*.

Relative to the Geneva stamps, which form the main portion of Mr. Pemberton's criticism on my prize essay, it is quite a matter of opinion—and I shall certainly not yield mine to Mr. Pemberton—whether the 5 c. port local has or has not a separate existence from the double cantonal. I should say that it has, for this reason: supposing that one of the port locals is cut out of the double stamp, which of itself is improbable, what becomes of the "10 port cantonal cent" at the top? Because I have a different opinion to Mr. Pemberton on this *vexata questio*, it is, to say the least of it, very questionable taste on his part to call my opinion a blunder. Mr. Pemberton says I do not attempt to point out the differences between the right and left-hand side stamps in the double cantonal. This reckless assertion is easily disproved by the following extract from my prize essay: "The L of LOCAL in the left-hand port local stamp touches the bottom of the shield, and almost touches it in the right-hand larger division." I can vouch for the correctness of my first paragraph on the double cantonal stamp, as it was translated by me, word for word, from M. Berger-Levrault's French catalogue, the accuracy of which Mr. Pemberton will not venture to impugn. Herein, too, lies the key to the "mystery," made so much of by Messrs. Pemberton and Atlee, of my having said that "the stamp in my own collection tallied with every characteristic of the genuine, as given by myself and M. Berger-Levrault in his catalogue. I must allow that the absence of a comma after the word "myself," did make the sentence read rather strangely.

Mr. Pemberton alludes to my having called the Geneva stamps square, instead of rectangular; my reasons are soon stated. It is very certain that their shape is quite different to the ordinary rectangular stamp, and if not quite, they are almost square. Besides, if we are to take our notions of what a square stamp is, according to the strict definition of the term, I, in common with nearly every writer on the subject, am equally wrong in calling the Basle stamp square, for that is not a perfect square, but approaches very nearly to the shape of the Geneva.

Regarding Mr. Pemberton's strictures on my description of the 5 c. port cantonal stamps, I have little to say, but that little I trust will be to the point. I laboured under the disadvantage of having no forgery of these, or of the Zurich stamps, to compare the genuine with. I will merely add that I had not the slightest intention of "prodigally foisting in" a proof, black on white, nor was the green on white, although by a printer's error—which in correcting the proof, I unfortunately overlooked—the word "green" was left out between 5 c. and on white paper. Mr. Pemberton, I apprehend, will get few to agree with him that there are as many as five types of genuine Zurich stamps. As regards these, I am of opinion that the absence over the U, of what the editor of *The Philatelist* calls the *tréma* (French), and Fentonina the *diæresis* (Latin), but which I prefer to call, in plain English, the two dots, does not necessarily condemn them, especially if in other particulars they coincide with undoubtedly genuine stamps.

One word more, and I have done. Some one once said of Mr. Pemberton's writings, that he had a fine field in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for the display of his graphic powers; I must confess, though, that it does not strike me in the same light, for I cannot *get over the stile*.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. STOURTON.

London.

[Without entering at all into the discussion between Mr. Stourton and Mr. Pemberton, it is right to warn our readers that the above statement of Mr. Stourton, about the small 5 cent port local Geneva, as formed by severing a double copy, which, whole, forms the 10 cent port cantonal, being still *vexata questio*, is decidedly erroneous: the very authority, Berger-Levrault, cited by Mr. Stourton, is direct and explicit against him on this point, and the concurrent opinion of all the leading philatelists here and abroad, is uniform. The point is beyond dispute: Mr. Stourton is wrong: all small 5 cents Geneva locals are from one or other of the dies which form the double 10 cents port cantonal.

Another probably more dangerous error of Mr. Stourton's requires contradiction now, for we are unwilling to let his statements about Zurich stamps go forth without the correction appearing at the same time, so many of our friends and readers might be deceived, and we might be held responsible for permitting the mistake to be circulated. There are five, and five only, true types of Zurich: every known genuine copy can be distinctly identified as one of them: and all show the two dots (*diæresis* or *tréma*) most clearly. It is a great pity that any doubt should be cast on these well authenticated facts: still more so that such doubts should emanate from Mr. Stourton: and we cannot permit our pages to convey his statements to the public, without disclaiming the mistakes he makes, and cautioning our readers against being misled by them.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. C., Saxmundham.—Your essay will appear in our next.

E. S. S., Brighton.—The new French Republic stamps being issued unperforated is only a temporary expedient.

K. R. C., Llandudno.—Our publishers will shortly issue the fifteenth edition of their Illustrated Descriptive Price Catalogue.

JOHN M., Guernsey.—Your stamp duly reached us. We are uncertain as to the character and value of the Russian, and are making further inquiries respecting it. We will reply to you more fully next month.

H. H. C. VAN THIEL, Amsterdam.—Your German 2 groschen adhesive, with the Constantinople postmark, evidencing, as it does, the existence of a branch of the German post office in that city, seems to us decidedly worth retaining.

J. H. R., Scarborough.—You will find the stamps you refer to chronicled in the present number.—Your strictures on our engravings of the Alsace and Lorraine, and the Republic 1 c. are certainly founded on fact. The former has too deep a border, and the latter is incorrectly represented as perforated.

W. H. D., Cambridge.—We believe the penny post referred to in the *Tatler* of 1709 was a local service for London; letters posted and delivered in the city were charged only a penny each. In one of the old volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, there is, we believe, a paper in which this is stated as a fact, but not having been able, after nearly an hour's searching to hit upon this paper, we are reduced to the necessity of replying to your query from memory alone.

CORNELIUS VAN DICK.—In the current edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue there are 35 varieties of New Zealand mentioned, and in a paper read before the philatelic society, and published in *The Philatelist*, 36 varieties of the same colony's stamps are enumerated.—The different shades in the Australian stamps have been frequently noticed, and are catalogued; stamps distinguished by such shades are varieties, but not distinct emissions.—The whole of the North German series, with the inscription, *NORDDEUTSCH POST BEZIRK*, in minute characters, as the groundwork, have been catalogued, and they form a separate emission.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—THE February number of this journal contains the first of a series of articles from the pen of Mr. Atlee, entitled, "The Spud Papers; or, Notes on Philatelic Weeds," which promises to be of considerable value to collectors. The title is a droll one, and the exact signification of the word "spud" is unknown to us, but the term "philatelic weeds" leaves one in no great doubt of the subject. The "weeds" are the forgeries which are, unhappily, so numerous; and if Mr. Atlee can only succeed in rooting them out, he will have deserved well of the philatelic community. He has set himself to work with a will, and, aided by the publishers, has begun by taking an important step in the right direction. These latter gentlemen, "actuated by a laudable desire to contribute their quota of help, have at a considerable expense obtained from Messrs. Spiro Brothers, of Hamburg, sheets of their many imitations," and the first "spud paper" is devoted to an examination of Messrs. Spiro's interesting productions. Side by side with the analysis, specimens of the actual forgeries are given, so that the readers can acquaint themselves with their characteristics in the most complete manner possible. No better aid could be given to the detection of forgeries, and we hope soon to see their circulation diminish in consequence.

The remaining space in *The Philatelist* is taken up with the usual articles, such as "Recent and Undescribed Emissions," "Correspondence," &c.

In reading the first-mentioned article, we could not help noticing, for perhaps the fiftieth time, a reference to the "Pendragonites." Whenever a secondary variety has to be catalogued, the editor makes a point of inquiring what the Pendragonites will say to it; but the allusion, from its frequent repetition, has lost half its point, and the other half is taken away by the fact that Pendragon has long since dropped out of philatelic existence, and his mantle has not fallen on anyone, unless it be the enlightened editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Guide*. We hope we shall be pardoned this deprecatory observation upon a matter of minor im-

portance; as constant readers, we could not help noticing it, and, *per contra*, we can honestly express our admiration for the new title wherewith the editor of our Brighton contemporary dubs advanced collectors. "Philosophical philatelists" is an appropriate term, and sounds much better than "French school."

The American Journal of Philately is distinguished principally by the commencement of a "History of the United States Post-office," which bids fair to be both interesting and instructive. There is also an article on "The Brattleboro Stamps," in which it is fairly argued that the entire sheet of stamps should be taken to consist of ten, and not of seven labels.

We can do no more than allude to a short paper on "British Honour," in which one of our leading philatelists is attacked with true American virulence, as we are unacquainted with the facts; but without anticipating the explanation—which, if thought necessary, will be forthcoming—we have no hesitation in repelling the coarse imputations launched by our contemporary. In a similar case, we should have privately written for explanation, but the chance of attacking an English collector was not to be thrown away by an American writer.

Le Kuriosi Kabinet continues to make its appearance, but, whilst valuable from some points of view, it is not very readable. The only noticeable point is a rather sly hit at our friend *The Philatelist*, which, in noticing *The Curiosity Cabinet*, had remarked that its peculiar mode of spelling suggested a happy combination of Artemus Ward and Josh Billings, with a few slices of Mr. Pitman, the great phonetic apostle, put in to make weight. Our American contemporary, after quoting this critique, adds, "The same journal, however, gives its readers a page and a half of hieroglyphics, which we presume to be fully as edifying to its readers. Here is a sample: 'aaabcccdeeeeeeeijllmnnooooorrra ssssttuu'—supposed to be a transposition of the inscription on some stamp."

The Stamp-Collector's Guide contains this month its profession of faith. The editor constitutes himself the apostle of the radical American school, which, we may remark,

does not go to the root of anything, but is the most superficial of all the schools, since, if the editor had his will, he "would draw a hard and fast line at the design of the stamp, and never go beyond it. Perforations, watermarks, qualities of paper, shades of colour, silk threads, &c., should not be allowed to constitute separate varieties." Here is a declaration which has about it the merit of being both straightforward and intelligible. We respect the conviction it expresses, but we candidly avow we should no more think of disputing with its writer on the matter, than of arguing with anyone who might choose to assert that the moon is made of green cheese.

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR IN-
EDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN
*THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGA-
ZINE* FOR 1870.

(Concluded from page 22.)

Peru.

Locomotive and tender, and the Peruvian arms, with scroll inscribed PORTE FRANCO, in square; marginal inscription, CHORRILLOS, LIMA, CALLAO; design in relief. Col. imp.; sq.
5 centavos vermillion.

Portugal.

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
100 reis pale lilac.
240 „ bright mauve.

Prince Edward Island.

Full face portrait of Queen in oval, inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE.
Col. imp.; rect. perf.
3d. stg.; cy. 4½d. brown.

Roumaniz.

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect.
3 bani deep mauve.

JOURNAL STAMP.

Profile of Prince Charles to left in circle, inscribed POSTA ROMANA; in lower margin, the words DIARE PERIODICE.
Black imp.; large rect.
1½ bani deep green.

Russia.

Design of 1864. Variety: the black portion of the design of the 3 kop. struck on the groundwork of the 5 kop., formed of repetitions of the numeral v. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
3 kop. green.

ENVELOPE.

Arms in circle, containing a Russian inscription (type similar to that of 1869, but inscription different).
Col. imp.; circ.
5 kop. pale and bright carmine.

Belozersk.

Russian inscription in four lines, printed in black on a ground of waved reddish yellow lines; numeral in four corners. Col. imp.; rect.
2 kop. black and reddish yellow.

Russian Steam Navigation Company.

Ornamental design in relief, enclosing the Russian arms in upper, and a steamship in lower part, P. O. at sides, Russian inscription below; frame blue, centre scarlet. Col. imp.; rect.

Blue and scarlet [2 piastres.]

Ornamental design in relief, with steamship in upper, and Russian arms in lower part; Russian inscription in upper margin; frame brown, centre blue. Col. imp.; rect.
Blue and brown [1 piastre.]

FINLAND.

Helsingfors.

1860? Inscription, STADSPOST, crossing diagonally from left lower to right upper corner of rectangle; above it, in upper section, left of rectangle, a small circle containing the city arms; below it, to right, a similar circle containing numerals; diaper ground; value in Finnish and Russian at sides. [STADSPOST KAUPUNGIN POSTI.] Col. imp.; rect.
10 kop., arms and numeral in red, remaining portion in green.

St. Christopher.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left in circle, inscribed SAINT CHRISTOPHER POSTAGE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny rose.
Sixpence green.

St. Domingo.

Design of 1866. Black imp.; narrow rect. UN real lilac-grey.

St. Thomas and Prince Islands.

Crown in circle, inscribed S. THOME E PRINCIPE; in upper margin CORREIO. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 reis black.
10 „ bright yellow.
20 „ stone.
25 „ brick-red.
50 „ green.
100 „ violet.

South African Republic.

Design of 1869. Col. imp.; rect. unperf.
One penny brown-red.
Threepence lilac, deep mauve, bluish mauve (perf. also).
Sixpence blue.
One shilling green.

ENVELOPES.

Circle with inscription on inner edge, POTCHEFSTROOM Z. A. R.; in centre G. P. K., 1869. Blk. imp.; circ. Black, no value indicated.

Similar design, but Z. A. R. in centre, and POTCHEFSTROOM ZUID AFRIKA in margin. Blk.; circ.

Black; value (*Sixpence*) written by hand.

South Australia.

Design of 1869. Col. imp.; rect., perf. Star wmk.
Twopence orange.

Spain.

Crowned head, symbolic of Spain, in oval; inscription above, and value and date below on scrolls. COMUNICACIONES. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1 mill. purple-brown.

2 „ brown.

4 „ light brown.

10 „ rose.

25 „ mauve.

50 „ light blue.

100 „ red.

200 „ brown.

400 „ sea-green.

1 esc. 600 „ lilac.

2 „ deep blue.

12 cuartos lake-rose.

19 „ light green.

OFFICIAL OR CONGRESS STAMPS.

Arms in oval, inscribed CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS, CORREO.

Blue.

Scroll inscribed DIRECCION GENERAL DE COMUNICACIONES.

Black.

Arms in octagon, GABINETE DIRECTIVO DE COMUNICACIONES.

Black.

Spanish Colonies.

(See Cuba).

Switzerland.**GENEVA OFFICIAL.**

Arms of Geneva in oval, inscribed DIRECTION DES PRISONS DE GENEVE.

Blue.

Turkey.**ENVELOPES.**

Crescent in octagon, star in circle in the four lesser sides, Turkish inscriptions in black in margin. Col. imp.; oct., imp. on back of envelope, partly on the flap, and partly on the lower part. Turkish inscription in white relief on front of envelope.

1 piastre yellow.

1½ „ brown.

3 „ orange.

6 „ violet.

United States.

Profile to left in oval, U. S. POSTAGE above value below, with large numeral in centre of lower margin. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

- 1 cent (Franklin) bright blue.
- 2 „ (Jackson) deep brown.
- 6 „ (Lincoln) pale carmine.
- 10 „ (Jefferson) dark brown.
- 12 „ (Henry Clay) purple-black.
- 15 „ (Webster) orange.
- 24 „ (Scott) rich violet.
- 30 „ (Hamilton) black.
- 90 „ (Perry) rose-red.

ENVELOPES.

Bust to left in oval, inscribed U. S. POSTAGE in upper half. Col. imp.; oval. Wmk. U.S.P.O.D., forming a monogram.

- 2 cents (Jackson) brown.
- 3 „ (Washington) deep green.
- 6 „ (Lincoln) brick-red.

NOTE.—The 2 and 3 cent designs are also struck on newspaper wrappers.

Victoria.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left, in inscribed oval, with small disks on each side, containing the figure 2, ornaments in each corner. Col. imp.; rect., perf. Wmk. v and crown.

Twopence lilac.

ENVELOPE.

Embossed profile of Queen, diademed, to left in oval, inscribed POSTAGE TWOPENCE, VICTORIA. Col. imp.; oval, various seals on flap.

Twopence pink.

Württemberg.

Field-post envelope. Circ. black.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. X.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Austrian Italy & Foreign Branch Offices.

THE stamps of Austrian Italy naturally follow those of the Austrian empire, and it is preferable to class them under this title rather than under Lombardo-Venetia, since the later issues were current in Venetia only. Furthermore, as the Austrian-Italian stamps were employed in all the Austrian

post-offices, established in foreign towns, it is but fit, for continuity's sake, that the present soldi series should be catalogued under the head "Austrian Italy," rather than under Austria.

This much by way of preface to the very few observations which it is necessary to pass on the stamps under notice. They are so thoroughly the counterparts, in all but the value, of their Austrian *confrères*, that my comments on the one set may be applied almost in their integrity to the other.

The first series has the value enunciated in *centesimi*, but on all the succeeding issues it is in *soldi*. Comparison shows that the soldo is equal to about three centesimi, as we find the 30 c. brown replaced by a 10 sol. brown, and the 45 c. blue by the 15 sol. blue. In the lowest values the exchange in value could be only approximatively obtained; thus the 2 soldi, equalling 6 centesimi, replaces the 5 c., and the 3 sol., equalling 9 c., supersedes the 10 c. The reason of the change in the denomination may be assumed to have been that the soldo being the Italian equivalent of the kreuzer, and being multiplied into florins or gulden, was more easily calculable by the Austrian officials than the centesimo, which was multiplied into francs.

Of the first series there are no varieties, except such as are caused by differences of shade, more or less marked. M. Moens, it is true, notices a 30 c. brown, on *laid* paper, but I have never yet met with a specimen, and for our purpose, at any rate, this variety may be shelved.

The only remark which the second series calls for is, that some of its members (the 2, 3, and 15 sol.) were in use in Venetia after Lombardy had been annexed to Piedmont, and that their longevity prevented the issue of the corresponding values of the 1861 set. Of this latter, only two denominations were actually used, the 5 and 10 c.; the remaining three are said to have been got ready for service, but not being required, they remained in store for several years, until they were in some mysterious way exhumed to satisfy the wants of the stamp-collecting fraternity. It used to be believed that these three posthumous stamps—the 2, 3, and 15 soldi—were in every respect original impressions,

but they are catalogued by Levrault as the result of a *tirage de fantaisie*, and such they evidently are. They are perforated with 12 dents to the two-centimetre gauge, and so also are the reprint 5 and 10 sol., which saw the light at about the same time; but the original 5 and 10 sol. show 14 dents, and had these posthumous stamps really formed part of a supply struck off to meet a possible want, they also would have been perforated with 14. As no 14-dent stamps exist, it is clear, that although the *dies* for the three values were made, no stamps were ever printed from them for public use, and it was, in fact, the obliging reprinter who first employed the dies, years after the type had been superseded, and by obtaining impressions from them, completed the 1861 set. The three "posthumous" values are thus deprived of what little value they possessed, as stamps prepared in advance, and intended for circulation; they are from the original dies, and in so far as they are *first* impressions therefrom, they are, in that sense, original impressions; but their collection becomes more than ever a matter of choice.

The 1863 set does not call for special notice. Its sole remarkable feature is, that although very closely resembling the Austrian series of the same date, it is not quite identical therewith, as the oval margin outside the inscription is wider. It deserves, however, to be mentioned, that it was the last series in use in Venetia. The war of 1866 stopped its circulation.

The "soldi" series of 1867 is used only in the Austrian branch post-offices in foreign towns. Of these, there are in all 55, which are principally scattered over the Danubian Principalities, Turkey in Europe, and in Asia Minor and Egypt,—a sufficient number to give reason for the issue of a separate series. The maintenance of the "soldi" denominations,—which, in fact, is the sole distinguishing mark between it and the Austrian set proper,—is probably due to the desire to keep the accounts apart, and check the revenue resulting from these offices *in partibus*.

ENVELOPES.

The envelopes, which were not used until after the annexation of Lombardy, require

no comment, further than that they have all been reprinted, and that uncut copies of the first series are very difficult to obtain.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

The only journal stamps special to Lombardo-Venetia were those which represented a duty, collected by the government on foreign newspapers. As will be seen, on reference to the last paper, the first stamp of this class was introduced in Austria in the year 1850, but it was not until 1858 that the Italian provinces were endowed with any, and it can hardly be doubted that up to that time the 2 kreuzer green was in use there. After the postal convention between Austria and the German States had been signed, whereby papers from those states were taxed at 2 kreuzers, and those of all other powers at 4 kr., the 2 kr. *red*, and 4 kr. *red*, were prepared for use in Austrian Italy, and were, in fact, employed from the 28th March, 1858, until the 23rd November, of the same year, when, upon the revision of the rates, they were both withdrawn, and the 1 kr. *black*, once so rare, was issued in their place. It is, however, probable that the 2 kr. red continued to be used afterwards, in conjunction with the 1 kr. black, and it is certain that a large stock of this value remained in the Venetian post-offices. Had the 2 kr. red been wholly withdrawn, it would have become as rare as the 4 kr., and the Austrian 2 kr. brown must have replaced it, but the fact that it has never been scarce comes in confirmation of my belief that it was not entirely superseded. The 1 kr. black at one time commanded a high price, but, as it remained in use until 1866, and hidden stores were discovered, it has since fallen considerably in value.

No special design was thought necessary for these journal stamps, nor was it even deemed expedient to change their denomination. They were the Austrian stamps pure and simple, with only an alteration in the colour, and this just shows how little importance was attached to the expression of the value in an Italian currency.

All the journal stamps proper—the Mercuries and their successors—were current in Austrian Italy, and with them, also, no change was considered to be required.

Baden.

The alphabetical order which I have thought it best to adopt, for reference sake, has some defects to counterbalance its advantages, chief among which must be placed its opposition to any attempt at grouping; and thus it happens that leaving Austrian Italy, we find ourselves at once in the middle of the German emissions. However, what cannot be cured must be endured, so, without attempting any general review of the German stamps, we will pass at once to the discussion of the Baden series.

Baden would seem to have been the first of the group of German states to issue postage stamps, though there can be but little question that its priority of emission was rather the result of accident than design. The series issued on the 1st May, 1851, indicates its own *raison d'être* in its side inscriptions, which may be thus translated:—GERMAN POSTAL UNION—TREATY OF THE 6TH APRIL, 1850. It was pursuant to the provisions of this treaty that all the leading states of the old Confederation commenced to issue stamps, and the common understanding arrived at, between them, as to the rates, had its result in an almost entire uniformity in the values of the different emissions; in the colours, however, a certain amount of variation was shown, and it was not until several years after the signing of the treaty, that a fresh agreement was made, to the effect that uniform colours for the several values should be adopted by all the contracting powers.

The first issues for Baden, with their German-text inscriptions, their prim ornamentation, and their clean postmarks, form a quaint but pleasing assemblage. They seem far removed in type and appearance from the "stamp of the period," with its often gaudy decorations and brilliant surroundings. They are stamps of the old school, primitive in design, intended for use more than ornament, and from the very fact that they are simple impressions in black on coloured paper, there are but few varieties. These are formed from differences in the colour or texture of the paper. Of the 3 kr., for instance, there are two distinct shades—lemon

and chrome yellow; of the 6 kr. also there are two, viz., deep yellowish green and a cold clear light green. The differences of paper are worthy of notice (though not of collection) by beginners, as they form a guide whereby to detect reprints. These latter are, I believe, uniformly found on rather stout surfaced paper. The originals of the 1851 set are found on stout *unsurfaced* paper, and also on two kinds of surfaced:—1. Thin. 2. Thicker and less smooth.

After the 1851 series had been in use about a couple of years, the colours of three of its component values were changed: the 1 kr. being thenceforth printed on white, the 3 kr. on green, and the 6 kr. on yellow. The cause of this change is not clear. No similar alteration took place in the stamps of any other German state, and we can but set it down to caprice. It could not have been want of the particular coloured papers necessary, as the impression continued to be made on green and yellow, only the values printed in those colours were reversed.

In 1857 the colour of the 3 kr. was changed again from green to blue; and in the latter it is somewhat rarer, as the blue was a comparatively short time in circulation.

No great expense or trouble is necessary to secure clean used copies of all the Baden figure stamps, but a collector with plenty of money in his pocket, may have to wait a long while before he can obtain a set of veritable 1851 originals. Their rarity may be judged from the fact that the celebrated collection of the late Mr. Pauwels lacked the 3 kr. yellow and 6 kr. green. Reprints, however, of any of the four values of the first series can be had for about a half-crown apiece, and are dear at the price.

As to varieties, the following extract from one of Mr. Pemberton's articles on forged stamps,* will show what ingenuity was once exercised to turn a dishonest penny:—

BADEN.—Many vagaries were formerly noticed amongst the earlier set of these stamps; such, for instance, as a pink 6 or 9 yellow, blue, or green. These are owing to the centre being carefully cut out and reversed, making the 9 into a 6, and *vice versa*. Another imposition was the making of the 1 kr. figure, fawn, from the common white one, by soaking in coffee. There is a forged 1 kr., the glazed appearance of which (it is litho-

* *The Philatelist*, vol. i, p. 58.

graphed) denounces it at once. The originals are finely engraved from steel dies, a different die for each value.

Stamp collectors have, I hope, grown wiser since then, and have learnt to look their stamps very hard in the face, before accepting and mounting them.

Continuing our examination of the Baden issues, we come now to that of 1860, when the simple numeral was dropped for the more pretentious arms; and when, with the arms, perforation was introduced. The design of the 1860 series is well executed, but rather too full of colour; the arms being somewhat obscured by the lined background, technically termed *champ burelé*—a defect which was remedied in 1862 by the erasure of said groundwork; whereby the heraldic bearings were left to stand well out.

The 1860 series may thus be catalogued:—

1 kr. black	
3 „ blue, ultramarine	
6 „ yellow, orange	
9 „ rose	
6 „ blue	(1862)
9 „ brown, pale brown	„

The two shades of the blue 3 kr. are well marked, and deserve collection; as to the 6 kr. yellow, it is, in fact, found in several shades.

The series commenced in 1862 and completed in 1864, is notable for the addition of two high values, the 18 kr. green and 30 kr. orange yellow; as also for a change in the colour of three other values, the 3 kr. becoming rose, the 6 kr. blue, and the 9 kr. brown. The 3 kr. is found in all shades, from carmine to pale pink; the 6 kr. may fairly be collected in blue and in ultramarine; and of the 9 kr. there are an infinity of shades, of which the two most opposite, say pale stone and deep brown, may be accepted.

Of the 3 kr. there is a variety highly esteemed among connoisseurs, distinguished by its fine perforations, which number $13\frac{1}{2}$ to the two-centimetre guage. It is usually of pale pink, and when found it is worthy of being made note of, and if possible, sold to advantage.

In all the stamps of the arms series from 1860 to 1864, the word POSTVEREIN is found on the right hand side, and forms a reminder of the origin of the stamps. A new series,

however, was started in 1868, represented at present by three values—the 1 kr. green, 3 kr. rose, and 7 kr. cobalt blue—on which the word POSTVEREIN does not appear, but each side is occupied with the inscription FREI-MARKE. This new emission is further characterised by its having the value indicated by the abbreviation “KR.” instead of the full word KREUZER, and it is evident that the entire design has been re-engraved.

ENVELOPES.

There has been but one series issued, but there have been two editions thereof. The first, which appeared in 1858, has the oval impressed stamp in the left upper corner. All its values were reprinted in 1865, and for my readers' guidance I give the colours of the reprints side by side with those of the originals:

1858. 3 kr. deep blue,	bright blue.	1865.
6 „ yellow,	yellow.	
9 „ rose,	rose.	
12 „ bistre,	brown bistre.	
18 „ brick,	brick-red.	

Only the reprints of the two lowest values are common. The 12 and 18 kr. can be had occasionally at a high price, but the 9 kr. is exceedingly rare. Dr. Magnus doubted its having been reprinted, but Mr. Pemberton informs me he has a copy. The originals of the 12 and 18 kr. are very difficult to meet with entire, they were in use in the days of *timbromaniacs*, who clipped them close round, and most of those which now figure in collectors' albums are, consequently, found mounted on white paper.

The second edition of the envelope series was published in 1862, and is still current. It has the stamp impressed in the upper right corner, and its values and colours are as follow:

3 kr. rose, bright and pale.
6 „ bright blue.
9 „ bistre, reddish brown.

These stamps are all well known and cheap; and, thanks to the wise regulation in force on the continent—which forbids the use of envelope stamps cut out from the envelopes on which they are impressed, and thus does away with the necessity of obliterating them,—clean copies are always to be had.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

These stamps were issued in 1862. They are three in number, viz.: 1, 3, and 12 kr. They are all impressed on yellow paper, are inscribed LAND-POST PORTO-MARKE, and are perforated. They are generally supposed to be common unpaid letter stamps—that is, stamps used to represent the postage to be collected on insufficiently prepaid letters, and this supposition is supported by M. Berger-Levrault, who certainly ought to know, but I notice that the recently-discovered stamp for the Danish town, Holte, also bears the inscription LANDPOST, and though I admit the coincidence between the two languages may be only accidental, it has set me thinking whether the Baden stamps, like those of Holte, do not really represent an extra charge for rural delivery collected as a matter of custom from the receiver. I give the suggestion for what it is worth, and am open to receive confirmation or correction.*

The "landpost" stamps have been forged, and that pretty successfully; to avoid deception, therefore, my readers would do well to buy from some well-known dealer of good repute.

POST CARDS.

Two were issued last year, but I have, unfortunately, not yet obtained a sight of either; I can, therefore, only describe them from M. Moens' catalogue, whence I learn that one has no stamp, it being probably intended for communications addressed to foreign countries, and chargeable at different rates; the other has a 3 kr. stamp, and both are provided with the necessary inscriptions, which are in black. The colour of the card itself is buff.

* [By a curious coincidence, since the above was set up, we have received from a correspondent, dating from Carlsruhe, the following confirmation of Mr. Overy Taylor's conjecture:—"I beg to inform you that the Baden 'land-post' series are not 'unpaid' stamps, but stamps for letters which are to be sent to post-offices where there is no railway; the 1 and 3 kr. can be bought at any post office, but the 12 kr. is now out of use.—ED.]

WE LEARN FROM *The Builder*, that the New York post-office has come to a new arrangement with regard to pillar-boxes; those receptacles being now connected with a pneumatic tube, that runs round the city to the general receiving house. As the letters are dropped into the box, they are blown along the tube at the rate of 65 miles an hour.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FRANCE, which occupies so large a place in the eyes of the world, almost necessarily comes in for the first place in our column of new issues. The latest stamp novelties, however, which have made their appearance in that unhappy country have been issued by the enemy, and consist of post-cards for the use of the French residents in the occupied provinces. They do not bear an impressed stamp, but place is left for an adhesive; the inscriptions are simple and inoffensive. There are the usual lines for the name, then the words LIEU DE DESTINATION, and then below again, DEMEURE DU DESTINATAIRE, SI ELLE PEUT ETRE INDIQUEE AVEC CERTITUDE ("residence of the addressee, if it can be indicated with certainty"). This latter clause is the only sign of the times to be found on the card. At the foot of the card is a notice, in the true German spirit of exactness, to the effect that the address ought to be written with clearness and precision—a not unnecessary precaution, seeing that the delivery has to be effected by foreign employés, who may not be too well acquainted with the names of minor towns and villages. The legend is lithographed in black on a brown coloured card, and M. Moens, from whose journal we obtain these particulars, states that there are two varieties, distinguished by certain differences in the size and arrangement of the inscriptions. These cards are not used in Alsace, where, no doubt, German-text cards are employed.

The perforated 40 centimes of the Republic, issued in Paris, has been withdrawn, in order to allow of the exhaustion of the stock of imperial stamps of the same value. A postal employé has asserted that the old one franc stamp of the Republic had been re-issued perforated, but this is open to doubt, as such stamp would have been of no use in Paris. *The American Journal of Philately* states that it has received unperforated stamps from Paris, but we think there must be some mistake on this point. If any unperforated specimens of the current Parisian series exist, they will become great rarities.

NATAL.—We have to thank a correspondent for early information of two fresh varieties

of members of the provisional series. The penny is now issued with the word POSTAGE printed twice, that is to say, on each side of the stamp; and the shilling is found with the word POSTAGE printed in green ink, in a curved line, below the portrait.

ROUMANIA.—The newspaper wrapper stamp which we noticed only three months ago, has already been superseded by a fresh type. The prince having decided to grow his beard in a slightly different fashion, the fact is commemorated on the postal emissions of the

country. The main features of the preceding design are maintained in the new comer; the profile is in a circle; the inscription DIARE PERIODICE is in the lower margin; and the figures 1½ in the upper corners, but here the resemblance ends. The portrait has been withdrawn; the inscription POSTA ROMANA on each side of the circle is in a different type; and the space between these two words is filled in with a Greek border; the word BANI appears in the upper margin, and the spandrels are filled in with a three-cornered ornament. Lastly, the new impression is in Prussian blue, on yellow paper. The 5 bani adhesive has submitted to an alteration; the old portrait has been superseded by the new bearded one, and the stamp is printed in bright vermillion; the framework remains unchanged.

Since writing the foregoing we have learnt that the 3, 4, 15, 18, and 50 bani stamps are all to be suppressed, and that the new 5 bani above described will have for companions only the 10 bani (here represented) and the 25 bani, which will be identical in design. The colour of the 10 b. is now pale yellow, and that of the 25 b., dark brown.

CUNDINAMARCA.—Mr. Pemberton writes us, "It was the 10 correos red I first noticed; the blue 5 I never saw—a matter of little consequence so far, but the stamp is rare, and its antecedents might some day be wanted."

TURKEY.—Messrs. T. B. Morton and Co. have superseded the primitive series of circular handstamped impressions in use during the last eighteen months, by the annexed design. We must assume that they

have found their stamps so much in demand that they could no longer print off a sufficient supply of their first hand-struck labels; but, on the other hand, we cannot help remarking that, notwithstanding this assumed demand, the Morton stamps have never been seen in any quantity on this side of the Continent, and the fact appears to us somewhat strange. We hope these stamps have not been made merely to sell, and we do not insinuate that they have, but we should like to know something more about them, especially as they are, after all, only unauthorised locals. There are three values, viz:—

- ½ piastre, green.
- 1 „ vermillion.
- 2 „ dark green.

—all on white paper, and perforated. The initial letters D & B. S. L. S. below the vessel signify Danube & Black Sea Local Steam-ship.

UNITED STATES.—Annexed is a representation of the new ten-cent envelope stamp, which bears the portrait of Thomas Jefferson in relief; it is printed in grey-black. The one-cent light blue, with head of Franklin, has also appeared.

RUSSIA.—*Longa.*—Our St. Petersburg correspondent sends us a specimen of a new local stamp for the district of Longa, in the government, or county, of St. Petersburg. It is an oval stamp, with the inscription and design in white relief, on a blue ground, but our correspondent omits to state whether it is a label or an envelope. It is probably the latter, and as it is gummed, we may assume that it is struck on the flap of the envelope; on this point, however, we are waiting for the necessary information. The inscription which runs round the inner margin signifies

VILLAGE POST OF THE LONGA DISTRICT. The design consists of a shield, surmounted by a crown; the symbols on the shield are in very low relief; in the upper half is a wolf, and in the lower what looks something like a basket, but on this point we will not hazard an opinion. The value of the stamp is 5 kopecks. Next month we hope to be able to give an engraving of it.

LUXEMBOURG.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the stock of the 37½ centime is now exhausted, and that no fresh supply will be printed; it is therefore, in effect, withdrawn. The 2 and 30 centimes will, in like manner, drop out of circulation when the existing sheets have been used up. To counterbalance this diminution in the number of labels, the administration, it is said, intends issuing stamps of over 40 centimes in value, and of a type larger than the current one.

BAVARIA.—*Regensburg*.—From the source last acknowledged, we gain the information that there are as many varieties of the Regensburg returned letter labels as there are stamps in the sheet, namely thirty, one of which has the word OBERPOSTAMT written "Oberpostamt," and another has "Rotourbrief" instead of RETOURBRIEF. The sheet was set up from types, without care, and the lettering is of different size on different stamps, whilst the full stop after Regensburg is absent in some of the labels.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The following short notice of a stamp, which, if it be authentic, will prove, to say the least, a great curiosity, appears in the last number of *The Philatelist*. "The last Australian mail brought a specimen of a stamp in use in these islands; it is oblong, printed black on white, inscribed FIJI ISLANDS POSTAGE, SIXPENCE, similar to the letter-press stamps in use in the Sandwich Islands." We are sorry the stamp is thus superficially described; we should like to have known a little more about it; and philosophical philatelists in general will, we think, share our desire. The Brussels magazine copies the above quoted description, but wrongly translates the colour, which it gives as black on blue.

CUBA.—We have before us a specimen of the new 50 centimos de peseta (green), and find the design looks extremely well. The

correspondent to whom we are indebted for the "view," sends us also a copy of the new Cuban telegraph stamp of 1871 (arms in oval), and draws our attention to the fact that it bears the value "½ peseta," which is precisely the equivalent of 50 c. de peseta. Why two modes should be employed of expressing the same value, it is difficult to perceive.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The same correspondent has received information from the Cape that the provisional fourpence has been withdrawn.

PORTUGAL.—Of the new type there are now in existence, 5 reis black, 10 r. yellow, 25 r. rose, and 50 r. rose.

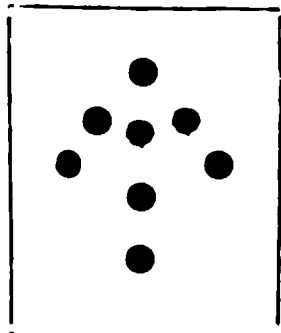
THE HALFPENNY POSTAGE STAMP.

1.—*The Adhesive*.—This stamp repays careful investigation. A sharp-eyed correspondent, after reading our notice of the existence of the minute figures on the sides, between the oval and the numeral of value, turned his attention to the stamp, and found that in each corner there was a figure 10, and he suggests that it may mean 10th month; if so, it is a very obscure way of hinting at the date of emission. We have had a long look at the stamp ourselves, and have succeeded in discovering certain lines which, taken together, resemble the figure 10, and must, we presume, be intended to represent it. In the lower right corner they show most clearly, but in the three other corners they are also traceable, and would appear to have been roughly scratched over the lace-work ground, and not let in like the rotation numerals at the side.

2.—*The Wrapper*.—Our correspondent, J. C., of Manchester, starts the sensible suggestion, that the variety which is distinguished by the insertion of rosettes in the three circles below the portrait, which ordinarily contain the date figures, has been adopted by the post-office for the impressions made to order on wrappers supplied by private persons. He supports his opinion with a specimen of this variety, struck on a wrapper, bearing a printed inscription consisting of the sender's address, and the words "MONTHLY CIRCULAR;" and another corres-

pondent sends us a Lloyd's newspaper wrapper, of straw paper, bearing the undated stamp, and the address of the newspaper publishers. There cannot be much doubt that J. C. has "hit the right nail on the head." The arrangement thus made by the post-office seems a reasonable one, as it will enable it to ascertain from time to time what number of wrappers has been purchased by the public over the counter, and what number has been taken by mercantile houses. It also avoids the necessity of making almost daily changes of the date-figures for each private order executed, and an alteration in the date on those sold to the public will now mark a veritable new edition.

3.—*The Card*.—This has already attained a wonderful popularity, and according to a statement in one of the daily papers, over *two millions* per week are now issued to the public. The labour entailed on the post-office by this new agent for communication must be considerable, and the mere work of stamping the cards must take up much time. Of late we have frequently heard it remarked that there is little need of postmarking them at all, as they could not be used a second time; and, indeed, he who would seek to defraud the revenue by effacing from the card a pencil-written communication, must be a very pitiful rogue; in the great majority of cases, however, the writing on the post-card is in ink, and therefore practically ineffaceable. The administration would seem to have had the subject under its consideration, and have begun to supersede postmark cancelling by clipping and piercing. The



other day we received a card with the stamp cancelled by a broad arrow, formed of cleanly perforated holes, as here represented. As this perforation falls almost in the centre of the stamp, we are inclined to think that a number of cards must be properly arranged under a punch, and all obliterated by a single stroke. We have been shown other cards, with a semi-circular piece clipped from the margin, and assume that they are operated on in the same manner.

Against the entire abandonment of the

postmarking system, it may be urged that without the date-stamp there is no legal evidence of the time when the cards were posted, and if there be no obliteration or cancellation whatever, there is nothing to prove that they were even posted at all; the royal road to roguery would thus be opened, as any one, for malicious or fraudulent purposes, might write what he liked, and date it from whatever town he pleased, and there would be nothing on the face of the card to prove that the communication was a made-up one.

A fresh variety of the card will probably be very soon issued, bearing, in addition to the usual printed stamp in the upper right corner, the small embossed penny receipt stamp, such as is used on cheques, as mercantile men have represented that the faculty of using the cards as receipts, or for delivery orders, would prove very useful. As the law at present stands, the impression of receipt stamps on the post-cards is expressly forbidden, but the interdiction will be taken off.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE POST OFFICE.

FROM "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH."

THERE is a quaint little ballad, called "Katie's Letter," the point of which turns on the imaginary writer's prudent secrecy in respect of her lover's name and address. Many an action for breach of promise might have been avoided if all who have ever felt inclined to write down their follies had only thought of the expedient suggested by Katie, and had directed their burning effusions, in a delicately vague manner, to say, "The Object of my Eternal Devotion." Possibly the Dead Letter Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand may have its awful secrets to deliver up, one of these days, concerning the very discreet correspondents who, on or about the 14th of February, dissembled their love, or at all events never told it to the postman. But, meanwhile, let us consider how many of those who send and receive valentines, or ordinary letters, through the post, are very much more enlightened than Katie herself, as to the operations by which the missives in question are punctually delivered. St. Val-

entine's Day, or, better still, St. Valentine's Eve, is a good time to take a hint, on this important matter, from the spectacle which a privileged visitor behind the scenes of the General Post Office beholds.

On any evening of the year the inland branch of the circulation department is pretty busy, the ordinary number of sorters being reckoned, in the rough, at some 350 or thereabout. The process of digestion, so to speak, which the rude mass of public correspondence undergoes, when it has entered the zinc jaws that open wide to receive it, is necessarily complex; but the system is, on the whole, simple. At all events, it is a marvel of method and organic arrangement. The letters that come tumbling in, faster and faster as the time for closing the mail approaches, are received in baskets, which are shifted and changed as they fill. These wicker maws are of portentous dimensions; but a very few minutes will suffice to test their full capacity. The letters are emptied from them on the facing tables, which are long plank boards covered with oil-cloth, and guarded at the edges by raised beading. To face the letters—*id est*, to turn them all with their faces one way—is the first very necessary operation. They are then bundled off to the stamping tables and are stamped. The sorting tables, which next receive the letters, are somewhat more complicated pieces of mechanical furniture than tables in general. They are boards of green cloth, having three tiers of recessed shelves above them; and the sorter deals out the heap of letters, first to the main lines of railway and the chief towns, their reduction to roads being matter of subsequent work. The real responsibility begins with the officials who sort the letters down to the several roads; for up to that stage an error could be corrected; but beyond it a misplaced letter must inevitably go wrong. Sorted for the different roads, with the registered and unpaid letters separately stowed and accounted for, the mails go forth from the sorting-room to a platform overhanging the courtyard, in which the red vans are assembled. At intervals, lamps with the names of different railways plainly inscribed on them, guide the porters to the van stationed below through the

opened tops of which vehicles the bags are shot. And this, roughly sketched, is the sequence of operations every time an inland mail leaves St. Martin's-le-Grand.

On the evening before St. Valentine's Day, an immense increase of labour in the inland branch of the post-office takes place, and is met partly by the employment of an extra number of men and partly by extra exertion of the regular hands, who are paid an additional shilling for coming an hour earlier than their usual time. The ordinary force of 350 sorters is made up to 500, by the enlistment of men who are off duty in their own right, and of others from the Dead Letter Office. The number of valentines despatched on Monday evening, the 13th instant, from the General Post Office, was 250,000; and about 200,000 more were received the same night and on the morning of St. Valentine's Day for despatch by the day mails. 450,000 in all, then, were the figures roundly estimated; and how, we may be asked, could it be known that these were valentines? Well, in the first place, no very extraordinary perception is necessary to detect a valentine; and, in the next, the number is simply in excess of the average total returns of letters received and despatched within the same period. We have only included in the 450,000 those valentines sent, through the General Post Office, from London to different parts of the country.

For the first time, Cupid's bolts have this year been shot by electricity; or, in other words, valentines have been sent "over the wires." A formidable contrast to such airy nothings was presented by the tangible tokens of affection, or parcels of practical satire, forwarded in the old-fashioned way. Indeed, the post-office officials complain that the preposterous modern valentine, packed in a band-box, is becoming, or has become, an intolerable nuisance. The stamping such things is difficult without smashing them bodily; and the process of sorting entails an alteration in the gauge of the sorter's apparatus. The unavoidable delay of the mails has not been so great this year, we believe, as usual. There have been occasions when the departure which ought to have been at eight o'clock was retarded till

nine; but on the evening of the 13th the Great Western train was only kept a minute; and the trains on other lines were generally got off in good time.

HEAD AND FIGURE OF LIBERTY STAMPS.

BY F. CAVELL.

THE head or figure of Liberty is the acknowledged emblem and design of a republican or provisional government, and as such it has appeared on the French, Spanish, Swiss, Buenos Ayres, and Corrientes stamps.

Under the title of "head of Liberty" stamps may be classed—

French Republic, issued in 1848 and 1870.

Spanish Provisional Government, 1870.

Buenos Ayres, issued in 1860.

Republican State of Corrientes, issued in 1856.

Under the title of "figure of Liberty" stamps may be classed:—

Swiss, issues of 1849, 1852, 1854, and 1855.

„ issues of 1862, 1863, 1869, &c.

The head of Liberty is represented in the republican stamps of France by the profile of a woman turned to the left, a bunch of grapes under the left ear being attached to a wreath of corn-ears confining the hair, which falls down the neck and upon the shoulder in slight waves, the eyes little more than half-way open, the lips compressed, the expression of the face being one of decided firmness.

In the Spanish provisional government stamps, the head of the goddess of Liberty is turned very slightly to the left, presenting nearly a full face; no wreath of corn-ears or bunch of grapes adorn her head, but, instead, a crown is placed thereon; her hair falls back in waves, but apparently does not reach so far as in the French republican stamps; the eyes are somewhat stretched, and appear to express wonder and surprise, but the whole design is executed in an inferior manner, and it would be almost impossible to state an opinion with regard to the expression.

In the Buenos Ayres republican stamps, 4th issue, 1860, unperforated, the head of

Liberty is to the left, with seemingly a rather aquiline nose.

Republic of Corrientes: head of goddess to the left, rect.; this is much the same stamp as the French Republic, but far less distinct.

The figure of the Swiss goddess of liberty, issued 1845-55, unperf., rect., is represented seated, with a full face, the left hand laid upon a shield bearing a cross argent on gules, the right hand holding a staff, which is slightly out of the perpendicular, and a loose garment folded upon the figure.

In the issues of 1862, rect., perf., the head is turned to the left, and the hair done up in a kind of plaited bunch; the shield also is sloping to the left.

It would seem more appropriate to see the goddess of Liberty wearing a chaplet of corn and bunch of grapes, than a crown, yet in the Spanish provisional government stamps, Swiss all issues, and Corrientes stamps, a crown is substituted, while on the French republican and Buenos Ayres stamps a wreath of corn and bunch of grapes is impressed.

[With regard to the Spanish provisionals, although the exact signification of the head thereon depicted has never been authoritatively settled, yet it seems to us very doubtful whether it represents the goddess of liberty, as the government was by no means a republican one; its chief openly avowed his preference for monarchical institutions, and on the telegraph and other stamps the Spanish arms continued to be surmounted by a crown.—
ED.]

THE FEDERAL STAMPS OF SWITZERLAND.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

[ADDENDA.]

By an oversight, we omitted the varieties of the 5 rappen 1854 type having black threads. The list of the labels of this value was had back by the writer for revision, and, through inadvertence, the undermentioned were left out altogether.

TYPE VIII.

5 rap. light cocoa; black thread.

„ bay brown „

„ very pale chocolate „

„ light cocoa; yellow thread.

This last stamp is of great rarity; we only found a single specimen out of a packet of several hundred 5 rappen labels.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the Philatelic Society was held on Saturday, the 14th January.

The President exhibited his collection of New South Wales stamps, including what he has been able to collect during his visit last year, viz:—a clean and a used copy of the old 1d. embossed Sydney stamp; 3 unsevered 1d. views of Sydney, without clouds; several 2d. views, fine specimens; specimens of the 1d. carmine and orange, 2d. light blue, 3d. green on *bleuté*, and 6d. brown on *bleuté*, of the laureated issue. These last were first impressions sent in by the engraver to the government, and were attached to the margin of his letter.

He had seen an entire sheet struck from the 3d. laureated head, and found that no such error as WACES existed in the plate. It is therefore to be assumed, that the irregularities on copies of this stamp have been produced by part of the plate being too much charged with ink, or some similar neglect in the operation of printing.

He also exhibited a set of beautiful imperforate specimens of the 3d., 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1/ stamps, struck from the plates engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., as well as some "registered" struck as proofs of colour; some of these had only the head of the Queen.

He had ascertained that the list of the 3d. views of Sydney sent home by the government printer was made out by a post-office clerk who knew nothing of colours. Those called by him "flesh" and "brown" were only olive-green stamps which had changed colour accidentally.

One of the members called attention to the statement made in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, that the envelopes purporting to emanate from the Argentine post-office, are reprints from an old forged die. On comparing a set of these envelopes with some of the valueless stamps sold some three years ago, it was found that they were identical.

The secretary laid on the table a very dark variety of the 1 centime stamp of the French colonies, and a 1d. New Zealand of a light pink.

SOME LATELY DISCOVERED SPANISH STAMPS.

WE have received from Mr. Ysasi, of London, and Senor Pardo De Figueroa, of Medina Sidonia, some interesting and little-known varieties of Spanish stamps, which we have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of our readers.

The rarest of the group is a Madrid stamp, or postmark, of the eighteenth century.

M It consists of the letters **M P.P.** (*Madrid porte pagado*) in two lines surmounted by a crown, the whole in black, and it indicated that the postage of the letter on which it was struck had been prepaid. It is undoubtedly one of the most interesting varieties in existence, and Mr. Ysasi is to be congratulated on his good fortune in possessing the single known copy.

Variety No. 2 is the postmark struck on letters from the soldiers of the Spanish army which operated against the Emperor of Morocco in 1860. It is a plain ring inscribed EJERCITO ESPANOLEN AFRICA, and in the centre is the date 30 ser. '60. This impression is also in black. It is in the possession of Mr. Ysasi.

The third variety reaches us from Senor Pardo de Figueroa, to whose earnestness in the study of philately, and all that appertains thereto, we cannot too warmly bear witness. It is the frank stamp of the military governor of Cadiz, and has such an ancient look about it, that we learn with surprise that it was in use during the past year. It is a broad oval stamp, something after the style of the Congress impressions, and has an inscription running round the inner edge, which reads as follows: GOBIERNO DE LA PLAZA DE CADIZO. In the centre are the Spanish arms as modified since the revolution, but surmounted by the old crown, instead of the mural one lately adopted. A kind of leafy chain descends each side of the shield, but the golden fleece is absent. The impression is in dull blue, at the lower left hand corner of the cover.

Last year we received from Senor Pardo de Figueroa a specimen of the frank stamp of the Treasury, which we described on page 120 of previous volume. He now sends us

a second copy, showing by the side of the Treasury stamp a Madrid postmark, in virtue of which the Treasury communication goes free of charge. It is a simple oval of two lines, with the word MADRID in its upper, and FRANCO in its lower half. Its shape distinguishes it from the ordinary postmarks, which are round.

Our correspondent sends, in addition to the foregoing, a cover, stamped with the words ADMINISTRACION ECONOMICA DE LA PROV^A DE CADIZ; and with respect to these and the other frank stamps, he explains that the regular official series, with which all collectors are acquainted, was suppressed in 1866, since which time each department of the government has had a frank stamp special to itself.

Senor Pardo de Figueroa sends us several very valuable Spanish and colonial revenue stamps of the eighteenth century, which it would be exceeding our limits to describe at length. We may, however, mention that they are printed in black ink, are highly ornamented, and are accompanied with a long inscription, setting forth the date of issue of the value. As proofs of the use, at that period, of impressed stamps, in the place of official seals, they are of very considerable interest.

Lastly, our correspondent sends us an engraving of the arms of Spain, as they now are. They consist of the usual armorial shield, from which, however, the little circular escutcheon in the centre, bearing the fleur-de-lis, is absent; it is surmounted by a heavy mural crown, and flanked by the pillars of Hercules; a ribbon, which passes behind the shield, and winds round the pillars, bears the old Spanish motto, *plus ultra*.

ENJOYING IT!—The Germans have their post-cards as well as we, and abuse the new institution in about the same manner. At Dresden a gentleman received a card conveying the following message:—

"I have lost my purse yesterday at the Elbe Baths, with three napoleons in it. I dropped it close to the water-mark, where it must lie still. As you are a good diver, pray go a-bathing with me this evening at six."

The gentleman kept the appointment, and was surprised to see two or three postmen go into the baths just before him. On the platform his astonishment increased, for in spite of the unusual hour there were numbers of post-office clerks there. They took uncommonly long dives. The writer of the card was sitting at a little distance enjoying the sight.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue Prix-courant de Timbres-poste, Essais, &c. Troisième Edition. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THIS is a very complete work, and is far more important than might be supposed from its title. It consists of 108 pages of closely-printed letter-press, and half a dozen sheets of illustrations. It contains a notice of every known, and of not a few unknown stamps, and, as a book of reference, it will prove very useful. It is arranged on the alphabetico-continental system, which now finds so much favour among collectors, and is divided into two parts, the first devoted to postage-stamps proper, the second to essays, telegraph, fiscal, and railway stamps. By this plan the philatelist does not find these latter classes thrust upon his notice, as is the case in some English catalogues; and reprints are separately noted and priced, an improvement which might be introduced with advantage into English compilations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATELY DISCOVERED HELSINGFORS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I am happy to be able to give you some information about the 10 pennia Helsingfors stamp, described on p. 151 of the last volume, which will contribute to elucidate, if not to settle, the question of the date of its emission.

I first saw this stamp about November or December, 1868. The obliterated specimen I possess in my collection is taken from a letter from Helsingfors, dated January 16th, 1869, but the stamp bears the handstamped date of January 17th. It cannot have been issued before August 1868, for up to this month the old 10 pennia appeared on letters I received from Helsingfors. It might have been issued between August and November, 1868; anyhow, I am sure that the date on M. Moens' stamps ought to be read 1/2/69, not 1860. It is strange that this adhesive has not been noticed by you before this, for looking into Messrs. Zachlesche & Köder's supplementary catalogue (1868-9), I found it classified as No. 16a., Finland, with the description—"Local stamp for Helsingfors: 10 pennia, brown, with blue bar," which is evidently the stamp in question.

I beg to remain, dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

MAX JOSEPH.

Gablonz, a/n, Bohemia.

[We are glad our correspondent has come forward to clear away the doubt respecting the lately discovered Helsingfors stamp, but he is evidently mistaken as to Messrs. Zachlesche & Köder's notice of it, as the stamp is square, and not oval, and is coloured red and green, not blue and brown. The oval blue and brown stamp alluded to by Messrs. Zachlesche & Köder is well known. We hope, however, that Mr. Max Joseph is not confounding the square with the oval.—Ed.]

WANTED, AN ODONTOMETER.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Will you permit me to suggest, in reference to the determination of the measure of the various perforations, the utility of an *odontometer*, on the principle of that given in *Le Timbre-Poste*, No. 46, or in the last edition of Maury's catalogue. Unfortunately, neither of these is sufficiently accurate. In the early days of distinguishing the perforations, a stamp was described as having so many perforations on one side by so many on the other; but that system has now become exploded, and the method (the authorship of which belongs to Dr. Magnus) of measuring the perforations contained in a space of 2 centimetres—as explained in the admirable "Papers for Beginners," which are appearing in your magazine—is becoming almost universal. If any engraver would prepare such a tabular form of perforations, he would confer a benefit on the philatelic community. Let me mention that Dr. Magnus composed his table from actual perforations. Thus the perforation 7 was taken from the French stamps perforated by Susse; 9 from Prince Edward Island, 2d.; 9½ from the Austrian fourth issue; 10 from the Wurtemberg large perforations; 11 from Prince Edward Island, 9d.; 11½ from St. Vincent, 1d.; 12 from the United States; 12½ from the early Russian; 13 from the first of the perforated Belgian stamps; 13½ from the French stamps; 14 from those of Great Britain; 14½ from the Ceylon 5d.; 15 from the actual issue for Russia; 15½ from Natal 1d., with star watermark; and 16 from the first issue of perforated stamps for Great Britain. A card, embracing these 15 kinds of perforation, in a tabular form, might well be prepared under the superintendence of the Philatelic Society, presented to its members, and sold to the public.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
W.

Brussels.

MR. STOURTON ON SWISS STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—With fear and trembling I venture to contradict that learned philatelist, Mr. Stourton, by asserting that *diæresis* is as much an English as a Latin word, being neither one nor the other; it is, in fact, Greek, from (*διαίρεσις*), though freely used in both the former languages. It certainly does not indicate the same thing when applied to a German word as in the two former languages, for in them it is used to direct that the letters over which it may be placed shall form separate syllables, which otherwise would be incorporated into one syllable; while in German it is used to indicate a compound vowel—*i. e.*, that the letter *e* is to be understood as interpolated next to the vowel so decorated—or, as some German grammarians choose to call it, a modified vowel. Perhaps Mr. Stourton would have been better pleased had I improved upon Lindley Murray, by describing it as a horizontal colon: yet, even that he might have thought too difficult for the comprehension of his younger readers, for whom he professes to write with such boasted perspicuity. When speaking to them of that mark of punctuation, he would, of course, in strictly plain English, style it "a stop of two dots."

Well, admitting for the sake of argument the learned Mr. Stourton's preference for "two dots"—the expression, by the bye, generally used by Anglo-German grammarians when writing English, for want, probably, of knowing a better—I would ask him what he calls the two strokes or accents used in writing German, to indicate this compound vowel ("dots," as he calls them, being only used in

printed language), which cannot by any stretch of imagination, or of the English language, be described as "dots."

Had, however, Mr. Stourton gone through the drudgery of being educated at Eton, he would probably have been able to have avoided this Charybdis, without stranding upon Scylla; for I find in an abridgement of the Eton Latin Grammar now before me (article Prosody), that tyros—*anglicæ*, raw students—are specially warned that *Diæresis*, *Synæresis*, &c., being words derived from a Greek origin, may *perplex* them, which doubtless has been, unfortunately, the case with the simple-hearted Mr. Stourton.

Truly, however, he must be a valuable authority to refer to, when, on his own admission, he undertakes to write an essay on Swiss Forgeries, without having a single forged specimen of two of the most important issues to write from, so that he is reduced to quote from an obsolete, though not out-of-print pamphlet of his own, since the publication of which, the then current forgeries have been superseded by totally new impostors, requiring totally new descriptions.

"*Trema*," also, I would remind him is more Greek than French, so that if he would speak pure French, he must (as in English) call these diphthong or compound vowel indicators *deux points*; *trema* being as far from being a French word as *diæresis* is from being an English word.

Clifton.

FENTONIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

—FURSE, Esq.—We beg to thank you for the report of the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, with which you so kindly furnished us.

W. M. C., Melton Mowbray.—Our engraving of the 1 cent French Republic was inaccurate, inasmuch as the stamp was represented perforated.

CORNELIUS VAN DICK.—The stamp you describe is a Bremen fiscal. We should be glad to see the wasp postmark on the United States stamps.

R. S. & Co., Dewsbury.—We make use of your information respecting the halfpenny band and adhesives in another part of the present number, and are obliged for same.

G. A. J. C., Hornsey Rise.—Both the lavender and the violet Mercury (current issues) are well known; probably it was thought sufficient to give only one shade in Dr. Gray's catalogue.

E. F. C., Belfast.—Your stamp, with spread-eagle on it, is an Austrian commercial.—The square stamp, with winged head of Mercury, and inscription K.G.L. POST F.R.M. is a Danish essay, or rather, in all probability, a forgery thereof.

J. M., Guernsey.—Your Russian label, inscribed MEARCHAUX, seems to us a *mere* imposition.—We have noticed your undated halfpenny wrapper.—The other stamps (Corrientes, Cape, and Montevideo) are all genuine.

F. H. SMYTHE, Karlsruhe.—Your information respecting the actual use of the Baden land-post stamps comes very appropriately to confirm an hypothesis put forward in this month's "Papers for Beginners," and we quote your observations at foot thereof.

J. B. M., Rochdale.—No printed album gives spaces for the whole envelopes, if we except only one or two special varieties, such as the Mulready and the oldest Hanoverian town envelopes, which cannot be collected otherwise than entire. The best album, in our opinion, the English Moens.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Bavaria.

THE first Bavarian stamp, in order of value, was once supposed to have seen the light in advance of all the others; such, however, if we accept Levrault's dates, was not the case. The 1st November, 1849, the day on which the 1 kreuzer black was issued, was also the date of emission of the 3 kr. blue and 6 kr. brown. Most probably Levrault is right, for it is hardly to be supposed that the postal authorities would have introduced the postage-stamp system by the issue of a single low-value stamp, which must have been used either for local letters, or, as is more likely, for circulars only. A love of arrangement by values, so as to form "complete sets," was no doubt, in part, the motive for isolating the 1 kr. black; and a further reason may be sought in the slight dissimilarity of design between that stamp and its companions.

The first series, if we adopt Levrault's classification, should be arranged as follows:

1st November, 1849, 1 kr. black.

3 „ blue.

6 „ brown.

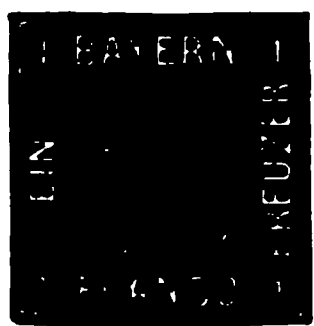
1st July, 1850, 1 „ rose.

9 „ yellow-green,
apple-green.

19th July, 1854, 18 „ yellow.

22nd June, 1858, 12 „ red.

It will be observed that the black stamp was only in use eight months, and yet four



varieties thereof are in existence—two principal ones, characterised by differences in the design; two secondary ones, distinguished by the presence or absence of a silk thread worked into

the paper, as in the Mulready envelopes. Of the two former, one is generally taken to be a lithograph, and may be recognised by the imperfect outline of the central figure 1, which at the base, especially, is noticeably broken and irregular; the other is assumed to be a wood-cut, but is more probably from a metallic die; it has the *extreme* outline of

the figure 1 formed by a black line, so that the shape of the figure is clear and unbroken throughout. As to the two secondary varieties, it is still a moot point whether that which shows the silk thread is not an essay. It is certainly far rarer than the threadless stamps; but Dr. Magnus hints that it was struck on paper prepared for the "second" series, and therefore was used for a much shorter period. What does he mean by the second series? Does he refer to the 3 kr. blue and 6 kr. brown, under the impression that they were issued later than the 1 kr.? If so, his suggestion does not help matters much, for, on Levrault's authority, we admit that the 3 and 6 kr., *with threads*, were issued at the same time as the 1 kr. black. We can only suppose that the greater portion of the supply of the black was struck off in advance of that of the other values, and before it had been decided to adopt the Dickinson paper. Levrault catalogues both varieties as actual stamps, and not essays, and his verdict is probably the correct one.

This stamp has been frequently forged, and as it would take up far too much space to give descriptions of all the counterfeits, I will content myself by mentioning *the* chief distinctive point of the genuine. If then, to quote from Mr. Pemberton, "we take the genuine stamp, and examine round the base of the numeral, we find on the left hand a blank and unequal space, a continuation of the white bordering of the figure;" and this is not found in the forgery.

The entire series, excepting only the 1 kr. black, has been reprinted, or a marvellous "remainder" from the original has been discovered within the last two or three years; hence unused copies even of the 12 and 18 kr., which at one time were rather scarce, are now common.

The other stamps of this emission do not present any specially remarkable history; the sole noteworthy point is that they are all found on two thicknesses of paper. The first impressions were on a comparatively thin texture, and the colours were less brilliant than those of the second working.

The real second series was, in fact, formed simply from the values of the first, impressed in different colours, viz:

1	krenzer	yellow.
3	"	rose, bright rose.
6	"	dark blue, bright blue.
9	"	stone.
12	"	green.
18	"	red.

All these stamps are common used, and have not yet enjoyed the doubtful honour of being reprinted.

The existing series was brought out in 1867, and was originally formed of the following values and colours:—

1	krenzer	green.
3	"	rose.
6	"	blue.
9	"	bistre.
12	"	lilac.
18	"	red.

being, in fact, a simple repetition of the old denominations, and, for three stamps out of the series, of the old colours. In 1868, however, the 9 kr. was withdrawn, and its colour was given to the 6 kr.; a new value, the 7 kr., being impressed in blue. Within the last twelve months the whole series has been perforated.

The first supply of the existing type was worked in very pale colours, but, about eighteen months after the emission commenced, a fresh stock, in fuller, brighter tints was struck off; and as there is reason to suppose that the deepening of the colour was intentional, there appears to be good ground for collecting both sets.

The design is neat and well engraved, and the stamps, especially those of the second edition, have a very pretty appearance when placed together; but in these latter there is a notable deterioration in the fine horizontal lined background of the arms. This has almost entirely disappeared—in the 3 kr. it is, indeed, quite lost—and the arms, consequently, stand on a ground of solid colour. The effect of this unintended change in the design is not on the whole a regrettable one.

ENVELOPE STAMP.

The sole envelope in use is the one which appeared in 1869, and with which my readers are doubtless well acquainted. It is principally noticeable for its having the de-

nomination spelt in the old style (DREY); at the time of its issue it was reported that only a few envelopes were thus distinguished, and that the bulk would show the word in its modern formation—*drei* but up to the present time no variety showing this difference has been brought out.* The old spelling was doubtless a freak of the engraver, for

we find the word written in the modern way on the adhesives.

UNPAID LETTER STAMP.

This old-fashioned stamp was issued in 1863. Its inscriptions signify BAVARIAN POSTAGE, 3 KR., PAYABLE BY THE RECEIVER; and after my successful guess of last month, in reference to the Baden "landpost" stamps, I am almost inclined to venture a similar one in respect to this one, whilst admitting, however, that the inscription is as much against as for me. Like the ordinary adhesives, this stamp has a silk thread running perpendicularly through the paper.



RETURNED LETTER STAMPS.

Stamps of this type have been in use since the year 1865, in

Augsburg,
Bamberg,
Nurnberg,
Munich,
Spire, and
Wurtzburg,

and a simple type-set stamp for Regensburg was described very recently in these pages. All of them are printed in black, and all are used for the same purpose. Letters which, from one cause or another, cannot be delivered to the addressees, and which bear on their exterior no indication of the sender's name and address, are opened in the presence of an officer or committee nominated for that purpose; and if in the interior the required particulars are found, they are returned to the sender with one of these stamps

* By some mistake, our engraving gives the modern spelling

attached, to show that they have been opened by the proper authorities. Of the Munich there are two varieties, one with a thicker oval than the other; and it is said that this latter was "affected" to the service of the Regensburg office; but, if so, its employment must now have ceased, as that office possesses a stamp of its own. Of the Nurnberg, also, there are two varieties, easily distinguishable, which are found side by side in, and run through, the sheet. All these returned letter labels are very cheap, and as they are affixed in the post-office, they are never found postmarked.

"INSTRUCTION" STAMPS.

These are found in a good many albums, and were once highly valued as rare essays. There are two complete sets of them, corresponding to the two sets of adhesives which they accompanied. They are, in fact, black impressions of the different values struck on the coloured envelopes containing the supplies of said values, sent out by the administration to the provincial offices, and were an aid to business, as the recipient could always tell what values were contained in the envelopes without opening them. Together with these stamps, the envelopes bore inscriptions stating the number of sheets of stamps enclosed in them, and their total value. Of the first series the following are the values:—1 kr. grey; 3 kr. dark blue; 6 kr. violet-brown; 9 kr. green; 12 kr. rose; 18 kr. yellow. Of the second:—1 kr. yellow; 3 kr. rose; 6 kr. blue; 9 kr. light brown; 12 kr. green; 18 kr. grey; and the "unpaid" letter stamp is found in its normal colour, black on white. We have not seen any instruction stamps for the present series.

These stamps are of no value, except as postal curiosities, illustrative of the working of the system in Bavaria.

SPURIOUS STAMPS.

Bavaria, like other countries, has had her share of these. In 1865 there was a grotesque design on sale, of which the most conspicuous feature was a Chinese-looking priest. This, with some other equally questionable varieties, was first noticed in the once famous Volpi collection.

In 1866 a rather pretty envelope design was put on the market. The annexed copy

will put my readers on their guard against it. It was issued in many colours, and originally at a rather high price, but there is no proof whatever of its having had an honest origin, and it is far more likely that it belongs to that crew of disreputable productions, the sale of which did so much to depopularise stamp collecting.

A FEW NOTES ON THE STAMPS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

I do not know that there will be much fresh information in the following notes, for they can contain very little original matter, but I have been led to publish them because there is need of a guide to the correct arrangement of the postage stamps of this colony. Though there are some papers existing, to which the collector can pin his faith (so far as they go), yet a concentration of widely-scattered facts must be useful; and as I have endeavoured to correct a few errors, and to add such further information as lies in my power, as well as to supplement the whole by a careful list of the varieties known to me, I believe that the present notes may prove of service to many, whether collectors of the extended, or of the English school.

The best plan is to commence by thoroughly describing the different types; these all contain the emblematical swan, but vary in shape and background to the number of five; and of these, there are three obsolete. They are as follows:—

TYPE I.—Swan swimming, reeds at sides, and sun's rays overhead; solid octagonal frame, lettered in full, POSTAGE WESTERN AUSTRALIA, and value; octagon; swan watermark; imperforate and roulette.

2d. black-brown on red-faced paper.

6d. bronze on plain paper.

TYPE II.—Swan swimming; netted background; solid octagonal frame, lettered in full as last; octagon; swan watermark; imperforate and roulette.

4d. blue on white or yellowish.

This type is considerably smaller than I., but the lettering is much bolder.

TYPE III.—Swan swimming; netted background; solid transverse oval frame, lettered POSTAGE W. AUSTRALIA and full value; oval; swan watermark; imperforate and roulette.

1s. brown on white or yellowish.

TYPE IV.—Swan swimming; netted background; netted oblong frame, with star in each corner; lettered as I.; oblong; various watermarks; imperforate, roulette, and machine; coloured impression.

1d. black, rose, olive-brown.

TYPE V.—Swan swimming; netted background; solid oblong frame as last; oblong; various watermarks; imperforate, roulette, and machine; coloured impression.

2d. vermilion, blue, yellow.

4d. blue, vermilion, rose.

6d. green, purple-brown, light violet, mauve.

1s. yellow-green, dark green, dull green.

The only difference between types IV. and V. lies in the frame; IV. being netted, V. being solid. In IV. the reticulation is very ineffective, and often hardly shows at the sides; the solid frame of V. is far more striking.

Type I. is very rough, especially as to lettering; yet owners of fine specimens cannot but admire their rude simplicity; the 6d. in fine perfect condition, with the bronze deep and glittering, is really a gorgeous stamp. Very few, however, exist which can merit this eulogy, for to one perfect copy of the colour of a guinea, we get one hundred showing less and less bronze, and gradually going to dirty black or grey. It is only on fine specimens that the sun's rays can be clearly defined, but on extra fine ones they may be observed coming down to the swan's wing, and greatly heightening the effect of the design, which indeed is incomplete without these rays.

Types II. and III. are poor specimens of a mediocre style, and, though more pretentious, are generally badly printed, and of ineffective shades; there is little to cause admiration; indeed, the only thing about them which could cause unmitigated pleasure is, that they are obsolete. The two last types (IV. and V.) are those now current; they are well

engraved, are not commonplace stamps, and the latest series is magnificently coloured.

DATES OF ISSUE.

It is a matter of uncertainty when the first issue of stamps took place; authorities differ; but most of them agree that types I., II., and III. were issued first, whilst M. Moens adds the black 1d. to the first set. As there appears no official record of the actual earlier dates of issue, and as these must be given rather at hazard, I think it will be as well to see what other writers have to say.

Dr. Gray's last edition gives types I., II., and III., as 1855.

Moens' last list gives types I., II., and III., and one penny black, as 1856.

Mahé's list gives type I., 6d., II. and III., as 1856, and type I., 2d. as 1857.

Maury gives them as 1854.

Levrault gives type I. as 1854, and types II. and III. as 1855. All, however, save Moens, agree that the black 1d. was issued in 1860. Then as to the vermilion 2d., blue 4d., and green 6d. of type V., some give 1860, others 1861 as their natal year; still there appears little doubt that whenever the three first types were issued, they were superseded in 1860 or 1861.

Mr. Overy Taylor justly says (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 59), that it is very unlikely that stamps so roughly engraved as type I. should have been current from 1854 till 1860; to quote further, "Issues of such a character partake generally of the nature of temporary expedients, being employed only for a short time, and not unfrequently whilst a better design is being executed." Another thing is, that these stamps are watermarked with a swan; and, as watermarks were only introduced in the New South Wales series in 1854, it is improbable, to say the least, that any watermarked issue should take place in backward Western Australia at the same period as in the head colony. Even Victoria did not adopt the star watermark until 1856, and it is said that Van Diemen's Land commenced their use in the same year. I feel sure their currency must have been very short. I cannot understand a 2d. and 6d. stamp being issued in 1854, 1855, or even 1856, and no 1d. being issued until 1860. I do not know

on what grounds the 1d. black is always quoted as 1860; but, if we are to accept the old types as issued even in 1856, I think the 1d. black should be included with them. I should be inclined to place the three first types at 1857 or 1858, the black 1d. at about the same date, and the other first oblongs, 2d. vermilion and 6d. green, at 1859.

From similarity, I should say the octagonal 4d. and the oval 1s. were issued together, and issued first, being followed by the octagonal 2d. and 6d. as a temporary expedient, waiting the arrival of the new dies from England. Whether the 1d. black was actually issued with the 4d. oct. and 1s. oval, is difficult to say, but I incline to think so; it is different in frame to the other oblong values, which may, perhaps, be some slight proof that it was separately issued; there cannot be a doubt that the solid frame is clearer and more effective, and a subsequent improvement on the reticulated frame of the 1d. Another curious thing is, that the only black proofs on India paper that I ever saw, are of this 1d., of the octagonal 4d., and of the oval 1s. As, however, all this can only be regarded as a matter of opinion, I have preferred to take the types in the order in which they are usually now recognized.

Whenever the octagonal brown 2d. and bronze 6d. were issued, it is quite clear that on the issue of the oblong vermilion 2d., and green 6d. the set in use was this (all swan watermarked):

1d. black,	swan wmk.,	type IV.,	oblong.
2d. vermilion,	"	" V.,	"
4d. blue,	"	" II.,	octagon.
6d. green,	"	" V.,	oblong.
1s. brown,	"	" III.,	oval.

This proves, pretty conclusively, that the octagonal 2d. and 6d., though swan watermarked, were only provisionally issued. When the imperforate oblongs were superseded, in 1861 or 1862, by the perforated 1d. rose, 2d. blue, and 6d. purple-brown (also swan watermarked), there appeared some indecision as to the colour of the new 4d., for a stock was printed in blue, on paper identical in thinness with that used for the vermilion 2d.

All these are found imperforate and rouletted, doubtless issued imperforate by the

government, and, for convenience sake, rouletted at a few head offices. That the stock printed of 4d. octagonal and 1s. oval was very large, is proved by the non-issue of the blue oblong 4d., on paper identical in thinness with that used for the oblong 2d. vermilion, and, no doubt, prepared with it, and the green 6d., which latter is on a somewhat similar paper; and the 1s. oval was not attempted to be superseded until the issue of an entirely new *perforated* set in 1861 and 1862. This oblong 4d. blue is usually regarded as a proof or essay, but there can be no question that it was actually circulated to some slight extent—indeed, in these pages there are notices of its having been used (see vol. iv., p. 144, and vol. v., p. 14); whatever stock was printed—and it must have been considerable, for they are not at all rare unused—they were never issued extensively, for when the imperforate stamps were superseded in 1861 or 1862 by a perforated issue, the following changes took place:—

1d. black,	imperf. to 1d. rose,	machine
2d. vermilion	" to 2d. blue	"
4d. blue,	" to 4d. vermilion	"
6d. green,	" to 6d. purple-brown	"
1s. brown	" to 1s. green	"

And the 4d. blue oblong takes its place between the two sets, as a stamp which was never wanted, and hardly issued, owing to the non-exhaustion of the stock of 4d. octagonal. The perforated 4d. vermilion, and 1s. green, though belonging to the recognised 1861-2 set, appear to have been held back until 1864, when the stocks of octagonal 4d. and oval 1s. were exhausted. In 1865 appeared the set with cc. and crown watermark; they were, of course, perforated, and the following values:—

1d. olive-brown.
2d. yellow.
4d. carmine.
6d. violet.
1s. green.

But between the swan watermark of 1861-2 and these cc. and crown of 1865, came some stamps—a partial issue—on paper without any watermark. Mr. Taylor truly says that it is a matter of great difficulty to detect the swan in watermark on some spe-

cimens. I know that a 1d. in brown-carmine, and a 6d. in light violet, were undoubtedly issued without watermark, after the 1d. rose, and 6d. purple-brown (which bore a swan in the paper); but, whether the 1s. actually exists without watermark, or whether I am deceived by the paper I cannot positively say. The French writers give a 2d. blue to this set, but I have never met with it; they also quote the 1s. which I have named, but in this examination the style of perforation must be considered. The swan series of 1861-2 are perforated 14 to 16 in all combinations; the cc. set are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.^{*} Without going into varieties (which are treated upon in the list at the end of these notes), the following are the no-watermark set, all I believe to be actually issued.

Perf. 14 to 16, compound :

6d. light violet; 1s. dark rich green.

Perf. 13 :

1d. brown carmine.

6d. violet, purple-violet.

There must have been some need for both 1s. and 1d. previous to the emission of the 1865 set, cc., perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, so that the 1s. no-watermark may be really what it appears; for just before the issue of the cc. set, appeared two varieties, with swan watermark, viz., 1d. olive-brown, and 1s. green, and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, like the cc. set.

I do not think there is much more to be said about the dates of emission, so I will now turn to

PERFORATIONS.

As I have before said, it is evident that until 1861-2 the government issued all their stamps imperforate, and, though every value up to that date has been found rouletted (save the oblong 4d. blue, which had scarcely any circulation), this method of perforating must have been used for the sake of convenience, at the principal or head offices. The varieties I have observed are of three sorts, —rouletted, a small pin perforation, and a square machine perforation. The following varieties are gauged by the same gauge as

^{*} These measurements are without reference to any other writer, but are taken from a gauge having 14 dents, *English perforation*, to the 2 centimetres: this is the exact width of our penny stamp.

that used in the previously-mentioned instances. There are, no doubt, full sets existing of every variety, but I only give what I can answer for :

1.—Very small, $9\frac{1}{2}$; 4d. oct., 1s. brown, 2d. vermilion, and 6d. green.

2.—Ordinary, $12\frac{1}{2}$; 2d. oct., 4d. oct., 6d. bronze, 1s. brown; 2d. vermilion and 6d. green.

3.—Ordinary 12-13, varying and compound; 2d. oct.; 1d. black.

4.—Large 14; 4d. oct., 6d. bronze, 1s. brown, 1d. black.

5.—Machine 14, square punctures, 1d. black.

6.—Pin perf. 17, very small and insignificant punctures; 4d. oct., 2d. vermilion.

The issue of 1861-2 was a testimony to the want of some method of perforation better than the imperfect rouletting, &c., practised as a convenience to the public. This series was machine perforated in all combinations from 14 to 16; the next variety of perforation is 13, found on some few values issued without watermarks, but they were quickly superseded by the present set, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and watermarked cc. and crown.

WATERMARKS.

There is very little to recount here, except what every one who has read these notes so far must know, but, as it is necessary to do it, I will simply state again that a watermark swan, though more like a goose as a rule, is found to pervade the paper in use for every issue up to 1862; then comes an intermittent set on unwatermarked paper; and last comes the series now in use, bearing cc. under a royal crown, as watermark. Many writers have given, and affirm as existing, 2d. vermilion and 6d. green, on unwatermarked paper. I do not believe in these for a moment; the difficulty of detecting the watermark swan has given rise to the impression that some specimens are without it, but this is quite a mistake. I have examined unused sheets of 2d. vermilion and 4d. (oct.) blue, and though it would be next to impossible to detect the watermark swan on separate specimens, yet in the sheet, when one swan has been found, those on every

other stamp can be faithfully traced. These sheets are surrounded by a watermark frame of five thin lines, with the word POSTAGE in large capitals at the base; parts of this border (or *réglure*, as the French term it) are often found on single stamps. It may be useful to know, that whenever a watermark of one or more parallel lines is found on a stamp, it is part of a *réglure*, and points to a watermark existing and belonging by rights to every specimen on the sheet. The cc. and crown series has a *réglure* of a single line, and the full sheet also contains a single line in watermark down the centre. Respecting the series on unwatermarked paper, as I have previously said, there are 1d. and 6d. beyond doubt; the 1s. is, perhaps, doubtful, and the 2d. blue, given by most French writers, I only recognise as a proof. Between the set of 1861-2, and the cc. series of 1865, there appeared some indecision as to what to adopt, for there are existing proofs on plain unwatermarked paper, gummed, and before perforation.

2d. blue.

4d. rose.

6d. dark violet.

To this series also belongs a 2d. blue, perforated 14, square punctures, exactly similar to that found on the black 1d., and which is No. 5 in the list given previously. I regard this as an essay of perforation; possibly the black 1d., so perforated, may have been *officially* issued thus, yet as there is no certainty, I have preferred leaving it with the roulettes, &c.; one thing is certain, it was pretty extensively used on the 1d., as specimens are not very rare.

(To be continued.)

MORE POSTAL PROGRESS.

MR. MONSELL has not only removed a great postal grievance, but has accomplished a great postal reform. The changes he announced on Tuesday night will do more than even those of last year to increase the usefulness of the post-office to the public. The sample post used to be a great convenience. By it all kinds of little parcels were sent by post, and the attempt to restrict it to *bona fide* samples was a need-

less limitation of its usefulness. The new postmaster-general has more than restored the old convenience by abolishing the sample post altogether, and by giving us a new tariff for letters, as follows:—Not exceeding one ounce, 1d.; above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces, 1½d.; above two ounces, but not exceeding four ounces, 2d.; above four ounces, but not exceeding six ounces, 2½d.; above six ounces, but not exceeding eight ounces, 3d.; above eight ounces, but not exceeding ten ounces, 3½d.; above ten ounces, but not exceeding twelve ounces, 4d. The book post and the half-penny circular post will remain as at present; and though the penny is retained as the minimum for a letter, the weight it will carry is doubled, and the postage of letters above the ounce limit is reduced by one half. A similar concession has been made in the charge for money-orders. At present the smallest sum costs threepence to send, and the fees run, threepence, sixpence, ninepence, and one shilling. They will in future be, for sums under 10s., one penny; for 10s. and under 1l., twopence; for 1l. and under 2l., threepence; and so on, an additional penny fee for each pound sent.—*The Daily News*, March 16th.

THE PRUSSIAN FIELD-POST.

(A REMINISCENCE OF THE SIEGE OF PARIS.)

I WAS witness yesterday, in La Vert Galant, of a scene full of pathos. The 107th regiment had marched in on the previous night and taken up quarters. In the morning came on what the field-post had for the regiment in a large waggon. The waggon drew up at each battalion orderly-room, and the bugle sounded the rally. It was a curious medley that streamed out as the tail-board of the waggon was let down. The German field-post is an elastic institution, and I think if you chose to send one out a box mangle, or a live tiger in its cage, there would be no objections on the score of bulk. There streamed down cigar-boxes, wrapped in canvas, long shapeless rolls that were eloquent of "wurst," flabby packets that one might swear contained underclothing, and little boxes that rolled as they fell, and

evidently contained thalers. The pile was made against the wall, the sergeant cleared a space and commenced on the pile letter by letter, packet by packet.

I made a note of the responses to the first six names, and simply transcribe it—"Schumann?" "Todt" (dead). "Caspar?" "Verwundet." "Schultz?" "Weg." "Stolberg?" "Todt." "Schrader?" "In Paris." "Bergmann?" "In Lazareth." Thus proceeded the dreary roll call. It was that of the 2nd battalion, which has suffered most severely. Before the sergeant had done there was quite a heap of packets which their owners will never claim. The number of "Wegs" was surprising. "Weg" is a wide word. It may mean anything, prisoner, missing, unburied, deserted (but I never heard of a German soldier deserting). The sum of it is—not here; and Lord knows where he is. "In Paris," was not an uncommon response, but always with a laugh.—*The Daily News Correspondence.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

UNITED STATES.—We are now in possession of the new 12-cent envelope, and have pleasure in giving an engraving of it herewith. It may be as well to mention that the bust is that of Henry Clay. The impression is in deep violet, and is struck on the right hand corner.

RUSSIA.—*Longa.*—Annexed is the engraving of the embossed stamp for the Longa district, which we described last month. We are still in doubt whether it is an envelope or a label.

DENMARK.—Of the new series there are now in circulation the following values, in addition to the 8 and 48 sk. referred to in our December number:—

2 sk., ultramarine; frame, grey.
3 " violet, " "
16 " green. " "

The new service (official) stamps are also to make their appearance very shortly, and will conform in design to the annexed type, which has been copied from a proof. The colours are not yet known, but the proofs have been struck in rose, green, blue, lilac, and brown. A similar design is in existence, which was rejected.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—Two new values have been recently issued for these provinces, viz:—

5 centimes green.
25 " dark brown.

The type is the same as that of the earlier issued values, but the lettering is thicker. Our Karlsruhe correspondent states that a new set of stamps for united Germany will be issued on the 1st of January, 1872, and no doubt the provisional Alsace will remain in use until then.

In the occupied departments, or at least in the department of the Somme, by special order "from a very high quarter," the Prussians impose a surcharge of 20 centimes on all letters posted within their jurisdiction. This charge is indicated on the envelope by a hand-stamped figure 2, and the inscription *TAXE ALLEMANDE*, in black. We have seen several letters from Amiens and Abbeville bearing this imprint.

FRANCE.—The transition from occupied to unoccupied France is a natural one. The provisional Bordeaux series continues in use, and numerous varieties are in existence, resulting from the rough printing. The 20 centimes is found in deep blue, ultramarine, and dull blue; the 10 c. in all shades, from red-brown to a light brownish yellow; the 80 c. is known in deep carmine and dull rose. The 40 c. is rarely used, and but few copies have come under our own notice. In Paris, the use of the republic stamps has almost ceased for the moment; nearly all the letters which arrive in the departments are franked with the old imperial labels, of which the stock must now be nearly ex-

hausted. Probably the old head of liberty will long remain current, as the government is hardly in a position to go to the unnecessary expense of making fresh dies, and the republic itself appears likely to last.

CANADA.—Our Brussels contemporary has apparently been deceived by the adroit swindler who succeeded in misleading the editor of *The Philatelist*; he chronicles as a surprising novelty, a small sized 3 cents dark brown. We have had one in our possession for some months, which was originally red, and owed its transformation to chemical agency. Would M. Moens like to see it?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The fourpence mauve has been "translated" into a provisional, and has had its value reduced by one fourth. Below the effigy, in a straight line, is the inscription 3-PENCE, printed at first in red, but now in black. This is a new value, and no doubt will be represented by a new type when the stock of the fourpence is exhausted.

FINLAND.—*Helsingfors*.—The design here represented supersedes the blue and stone

stamp which has been in use for the last three years, and is printed in two colours, in a very peculiar manner; the upper half, from the right upper to the left lower corner, is red, and the lower half green, and thus

it results that the Swedish inscriptions, HELSINGFORS STADSPÖST, have their colour, and the Finnish inscriptions, KAUPUNGIN POSTI HELSINGISSA, have theirs. The stamp is printed on white paper, and provided with serpentine perforations.

GREAT BRITAIN.—In our last impression, in the course of some remarks on the half-penny stamps, we ventured to adopt the suggestion of one of our correspondents, that the undated wrapper stamp was designed exclusively for wrappers ordered by private persons; but this supposition, as several other correspondents have proved, was erroneous. The undated wrapper is sold at all the post offices, and is rapidly superseding the dated type; our readers would therefore do well to provide themselves with specimens of the latter without delay. The new

wrapper, we may observe, is shorter than the old, and one of the specimens sent by our correspondents shows the stamp printed in a light green, of an emerald tinge.

BAVARIA.—The Brussels journal notes the emission of several varieties of field-post envelopes.

SWITZERLAND.—The same paper gives a representation (which we copy) of a stamp which has been issued by the Swiss authorities for the use of the soldiers of Bourbaki's army interned in Switzerland, and frees their letters through the post. This stamp is printed in black on rose and on red paper.

DECCAN.—A rather peculiar design, presumably for this district, was noticed in *The Philatelist* for last month, and by the courtesy of the publishers we are happy to be able to reproduce the illustration thereof. The original was received by a correspondent from Hyderabad, accompanied by one of the stamps described and figured in our last volume. The impression is in brown on thin toned unwatermarked paper.

MOZAMBIQUE.—M. Moens, in his catalogue, chronicles an emission of six values for this Portuguese colony, but gives no description.

BADEN.—In our last number Mr. Overy Taylor having referred to a newly-issued post-card for this state, a Carlsruhe correspondent sends us a specimen of the same. It is a large buff card, provided with the necessary inscriptions in black, and with a ruled square in the upper right corner, on which to place an adhesive stamp. Our correspondent is not acquainted with any stamped card.

WURTEMBERG.—The same correspondent informs us of the emission of two post-cards for this state, one with an embossed 3 kr., and the other with an embossed 1 kr. stamp, in their usual colours.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Another correspondent sends us an extract from a letter received from a friend at the Cape, explaining the cause of the surcharge of the sixpence

Militaires français
internés en Suisse.
Gratis.



lilac. It appears this value was much used as a revenue stamp, and but little for postal purposes; when the government forbade its being affixed to documents, its employment almost ceased, and to utilise the stock remaining on hand, the value was changed from sixpence to fourpence.

SPAIN.—The 25 milesimas has just been issued in a new colour—bright mauve.

THE PERUVIAN STAMPS.

(Translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, February, 1871.)

THE history of the Peruvian stamps has already formed the subject of an article which has appeared in this journal. Our purpose in returning to them to-day is, first, to continue that article to the present date, and, secondly, to acquaint our readers with the interesting documents connected with the history, which were entirely wanting when we first wrote.

We have said that it was on the initiative of the Director of the post-office, Mr. A. Davila, that the employment of stamps was adopted on the 1st December, 1857. The proposal which was made to that effect should not bear date the 17th March, 1857, as we had first published, but the 17th March, 1851. Hardly was the project submitted, than it received (two months after) the approbation of the government, as is shown by a letter, dated 16th May, 1851, and signed by the minister, Jean Crisostomo Torrico, which we have now before us, and which requests the postal administration to prepare the instructions and regulations relative to the new system. Notwithstanding all the good will of the government, six years passed away before the project was put in execution. On whom the blame of such delays should be cast, we know not; we can but mention them. However, the great decision saw the light on the 19th October, 1857. The following are its terms:—

The Council of Ministers charged with the Executive power,

Considering,

That the system of stamps for the prepayment both of home and foreign correspondence offers facilities to the public, and that it simplifies the operations and the book-keeping of the post-office, and increases the efficiency of that branch, in accordance with the proposal made by the Administrator-General,

Decrees,

Art. 1.—As soon as the law of the 2nd of this month, respecting the monetary system, takes effect, all correspondence shall be prepaid by the senders by means of stamps, representing the charge for prepayment.

Art. 2.—There shall be stamps of *un dinero*, of *un peseta*, and of *un demi-peso*, which will bear the national arms with the modifications, and in the colours of the types submitted, and the indication of the value on each one. They will also have, in addition, secret marks, whereby to verify their authenticity. The backs of the stamps shall be gummed; and by moistening the backs, the stamps may be attached to the letters.

Art. 3.—Whoever shall in any wise falsify the postage stamps, shall be subject to the laws in force against forgers.

Art. 4.—The matrices of the stamps shall be preserved by the postal administration in its private safe, and the same administration shall take the necessary steps to have printed the quantity of stamps required for public use.

Art. 5.—An account of the number of stamps printed shall be kept in a special book, and signed by the chief of the department, the controller, and the functionary charged with the superintendence of the impression; in the presence, and with the authorization of the treasury agent. The operation, as soon as it is terminated, shall be transferred to the account of the quantities issued, accompanied by a certified copy of the entry in the special book, and of the agent's approval.

Art. 6.—For the sale of the above-mentioned stamps, agencies (*débits*) shall be established throughout the republic; the sellers will receive a corresponding bonus, and the administrators will require security from them equivalent to the value of the stamps which shall be confided to them.

Art. 7.—All letters shall be prepaid by the senders, by attaching to the letter, or to the flap (*sic*), the stamp or stamps equalling in value the rate fixed by the tariff.

Art. 8.—The stamps on all the letters which shall be thrown into the different boxes established by the administration, shall be annulled by means of a hand-stamp.

Art. 9.—If it be found that the stamps attached are not sufficient to pay the postage, letters destined for abroad shall not be forwarded. The sender, if he can be discovered, shall be advised, or else a list of detained letters shall be affixed at the post-office door, so that the writers may complete the postage.

If such letters can only be forwarded by couriers of the republic, they shall be sent to the addressees, who must pay the sum required to complete the postage. The same rule shall be followed for letters bearing stamps which have already served.

Art. 10.—With regard to letters which shall be dropped into the boxes without any stamp whatever, if they are intended for any place within the republic, they shall be forwarded, and double postage be claimed from the receiver. If they are for foreign parts, they will not be forwarded, but the senders will be advised by the means indicated in art. 9.

Art. 11.—Letters which it may be desired to forward *registered* should bear sufficient stamps to prepay the postage and registration. For such letters the post will perform the prescribed formalities on delivery.

Art. 12.—The administrator-general of the posts is authorised to make the regulations and disbursements necessary to establish the above system of postage stamps.

Given at the seat of government, at Lima, the 19th October, 1857.

(Signed) JOSE MARIA RAYGADA,
MANUEL ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS.
LUCIAN MARIA CANO.
JUAN MANUEL DEL MAR.

The postal director—the author, probably, of all the preceding delay—did not venture, even after the decree, to frankly adopt the new system; he must needs give it a preliminary trial between the towns of Lima and Chorillos; to this effect he addresses the following proposition to the minister:

LIMA, the 5th Nov. 1857.

I can obtain from the agent of the Steamboat Company a large quantity of *porte-franco* stamps which he has had by him for a long time, and of which the design has never been employed. These stamps would be gratuitously delivered for the purpose of trying the system, for the correspondence of the towns between Lima and Chorillos. Their employment not offering any inconvenience, a notice in advance might be published to the effect, that on and after the first of next month these stamps might be used for the above-mentioned correspondence. This system might be extended later on to prepayment by the steamers.

Refer this matter to the supreme government, that it may acquaint itself with and approve my proposition.

(Signed) A. DAVILA.

It results from this document, that the stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. served at first only as Peruvian stamps between the towns of Lima and Chorillos, and that previous to that date (1st December, 1857) the stamps of that company had never been in use. Those obliterated with the *Callao* mark, and considered as having been employed at that period, must have been current when the new system of prepayment of postage was extended to letters sent by the steamboats, which extension is referred to in M. Davila's letter.

Only one provisional stamp of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. is known. It is the 1 real blue, printed on bluish paper.

Mons. A. Davila, having obtained the permission he had solicited, forwarded the following circular to all the post-offices of the republic.

LIMA, 23 Nov., 1857.

It has been established by a supreme decree of the 19th of last month, that the prepayment of letters by means of stamps, should be introduced for correspondence of all kinds. This invention, which simplifies the work and the accounts of the office, offers to the public great facilities.

The rates for all places have been rendered uniform, so that it is only necessary to be acquainted with the values of the stamps, in order to know how to effect the prepayment without making inquiry at the post-office.

Desiring to give the stamp system a trial, and acquaint the public with the advantages derivable from it, I have published a notice, of which I enclose some copies, so that you may be able to put in practice the system from the 1st December, for the correspondence between Lima and Chorillos. This is simply to give you a preparatory

idea of the system; later on you will receive detailed instructions, which I shall bring to the notice of the public and of the officials, so that the service may not give rise to any inconvenience.

Have the goodness to communicate my circular to your subordinates, that they may get an idea of the system.

(Signed) JOSE DAVILA CONDEMARIN.

The utility of the "system" being well established by the results of the experiment tried at Lima and Chorillos, it was at length decided to give the whole republic the benefit of the innovation. A new decree appeared, in which it was no longer question of the emission of a $\frac{1}{2}$ peso stamp. The following is a sufficient extract from it.

Art. 9.—Under the superintendence of the postal administration, designs shall be engraved for the stamps of *un dinero* and *un peseta*, conformably to the decree of the 19th October last.

Art. 10.—The stamps of 1 dinero shall be sold at one real, and those of 1 peseta at two reales each.

Art. 11.—The present decree shall take effect fifteen days after date in this department, and in the province of Callao, and thirty days after date in the remainder of the republic.

Art. 12.—The provisions of the decree of the 21st Jan., 1851, are only maintained in so far as they are not incompatible with those of the present decree.

Given at the seat of government,

Lima, 23 January, 1858.

(Signed) JOSE MARIA RAYGADA.
MANUEL ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS.
LUCIANO MARIO CANO.
JUAN MANUEL DEL MAR.

A document which we possess, signed A. Davila, approves the proposition made by Don José M. Masias, concerning the disbursements to be made for the postage stamps, and fixes the date of the 1st March, 1858, as that of the introduction of the system of prepayment by means of stamps of the correspondence between Lima, Callao, and Chorillos. The date of the 26th February, 1858, given in our No. 28 is there erroneous; it belongs, from what we now see, to the new general tariff, which was published on that day.

From our former article it is known that the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso was suppressed on the 18th June, 1858. Here is the proof:—

Government Office,

LIMA, 18th June, 1858.

To the Administrator-general of the Posts.

By the decree of the 19th October, of last year, I required you to get engraved the designs of stamps of the value of 1 dinero, 1 peseta, and $\frac{1}{2}$ peso, respectively. This request was modified by the decree of the 23rd of January last, in consequence of the publication of a new tariff of postal rates. Conformably to certain articles of

that decree, only stamps of 1 dinero and 1 peseta were to be prepared.

Consequently, I beg you not to print any more of the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso stamps, as they have become useless.

God guard you.

(Signed) JEAN MANUEL DEL MAR.

From what has gone before it appears that the partial employment of the stamps only commenced on the 1st March, 1858, and their general usage—taking into account the decree of the 23rd January, 1858—fifteen days later.

In compliance with the decree of the 19th October, 1857, the half peso was certainly issued on the 1st March, 1858, only to disappear on the 1st June of the same year. The type of the half peso belongs essentially to that of the stamps of the second series, equally by the details of the design and by its dimensions; in order, then, to admit the classification given in our former article, and which has been generally approved, it must have happened that precisely the opposite of what the law prescribed was done. The first decree authorised the creation of *three* stamps—there exist only *two* in the first series; the second decree requires only *two* stamps—there are *three* in the second series. Furthermore, between the creation of the first series and the suppression of a stamp, ($\frac{1}{2}$ peso) of the second series only three months elapsed. During such an inconsiderable period it seems to us hardly possible that two series of stamps could have been issued; we think, then, that the relative position of the two series should be reversed, the second being henceforth considered as the first, and the first as the second.

It is indeed not impossible that the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso was intentionally distinguished by its size from the other values, and that afterwards, when it had been suppressed, its type was adopted for the 1 dinero and 1 peseta. However, notwithstanding the general accord in classing the two stamps with double-line inner and outer frame as the oldest, we believe that in presence of the observations we now bring to our readers' notice, there is reason for modifying the classification, in the sense above indicated.

The second article of the decree of the 19th October, 1857, informs us that the stamps bear secret marks. We have searched them

over from corner to corner, and back again, with our magnifier, without finding anything special. The only thing we remarked was the size of the stamps, which differs for each series. May not that be the secret mark of which it is always question with regard to the Peruvian stamps? We think so. If then, the whole secret of the postal administration consisted in the size of the stamps, the division of the second series seems to me impossible, and we see in the remark a new proof that our arrangement is the right one.

Two $\frac{1}{2}$ peso stamps are known, the one printed in yellow, the other in rose. We had at first thought that this latter might be an essay, but having since seen authentically cancelled specimens (collection of Monsieur A. de R.), we had inclined to the idea lately put forth by M. Mahé, that the existence of the rose stamp is the result of an error. Our *confrère* thinks that the plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso was printed from, in the stead and place of the rose peseta of the same type, but seeing the great rarity of the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso rose, we are more ready to attribute it to the introduction of a cast of the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso into the form of the peseta.*

The postmaster whom we have consulted on the point, now replies: "I cannot understand how it was you could have seen rose $\frac{1}{2}$ peso stamps, since none but yellow stamps of that value were ever printed." It is then, indeed, the result of an error, which the postal administration, notwithstanding all its secret means for recognising genuine stamps, has never discovered.

From 1858 until 1863, all the different stamps issued were lithographed by Mons. D. Emilio Prugue, of Lima.

It had been supposed that the successive

* [It is beyond doubt the rose $\frac{1}{2}$ peso has in many cases passed through, and been postmarked in, Peruvian post-offices: besides the copy above referred to, the collections of the late Mr. Pauwels, Mr. Philbrick, and several others in this country have postmarked specimens; but the fact to which we desire to call attention is, that the colour is not at all the same shade as that of the rose peseta of that type; it is perfectly distinct and different, being of a much yellower hue; and this observation of ours is confirmed, not only by every postmarked copy we ever met with, but by the *unused copy* in Mr. Philbrick's album. At present we are not prepared to assent to M. Moens' view; further consideration is required.—ED.]

series had been issued simply on account of the wearing away of the designs. Not at all: it was to make head against the inconveniences caused by counterfeiting. We have here a circular, unfortunately without date, which the administration addressed on this subject to the different post-offices.

Very recently there arrived at the central office, a letter, bearing a clumsy counterfeit of the blue 1 real stamp (1 dinero), and coming from the Huaraz district. The administration deems it necessary to give notice of the fact to all the postmasters and officials, in order that the author of the forgery may be discovered, that all letters bearing the forged stamps may be seized, and that all the necessary indications may be forwarded to the department.

The first two series of stamps having been withdrawn from circulation, the postal department requested a ministerial authorisation to burn all the remaining stock of those series, and the same was sent in the following terms:

LIMA, 15th December, 1860.

To the Administrator general of the Posts.

In reply to the letter you addressed to us, on the 12th November last, by which you required an authorisation to burn the stock of old stamps, of the total facial value of 8,653 pesos 1 real, and the books of that office [?], his Excellency the President, on the 7th of this month, gave his decision that you might proceed with that operation, with the formalities necessary in such case.

I communicate to you the present that you may conform to it.

God guard you.

(Signed) A. MANUEL MORALES.

According to this document, the third series cannot have been issued more recently than in 1860, and we doubt if it dates any further back. There can be no harm in giving 1860 as the date of its emission.

(To be continued.)

SUNDAY LABOUR IN THE POST-OFFICE.

No more useful institution exists in the United Kingdom than the Post-office. To be able to speak to one's friend 500 miles away "for the small charge of a penny," and to receive his thoughts in return for a like outlay, is an advantage which cannot be too highly appreciated. But how many of us regard with feelings of gratitude the post-office as a system? or the individual workers who make that system the success which it undeniably is? We affix the Queen's head to the envelope, and consider that our

part of the contract is fulfilled. We think the postman has no further claim upon us. It is purely a business transaction; he does so much work for so much money; and there an end. What is it to us if he is footsore and weary at the day's close? If he is scorched by the heat of summer, or half frozen by the biting winter wind? What if his uniform is uncomfortable and unhealthy, his work excessive and monotonous, and his treatment tyrannical? Work, however unpleasant, must be done, and discipline must be preserved. There are many worse off than he—many who would jump for joy at the prospect of getting into government employment, regular and certain. Surely, then, it is no concern of ours. He can stay or go as it pleases him. No one compels him to be the slave he says he is. Such, no doubt, would be the logic of mere money-makers—men who live on the lives of others, who grind their workmen down to the lowest farthing, and exact their pound of flesh without bating a pennyweight. But such, we trust, is not the reasoning of our readers; men and women who have both intelligence and sympathy, who look not upon their fellow-creatures as so many gold-making machines, to be worked at high pressure until worn out, but as human brothers and sisters, with temporal and eternal interests as important as their own; who not only believe in, but act upon (in some measure, at least) the golden maxim of our Saviour: "Do as you would be done by." And such, we are sure, will listen to us with open hearts as well as ears, while we plead for justice, simple justice, for the poor provincial postman. It is not merely that in common with his brother labourers in town he is poorly paid and harshly treated, but that he has a grievance, which, happily, they have not: that week by week, and year by year, there is no cessation of his toil; no holy Sabbath rest; no breathing time in which to direct his thoughts to things better and higher than those of this life.

Shall we be believed when we state the fact that in this Christian country, upwards of 20,000 persons are employed by the Post-office in Sabbath labour of a totally unnecessary kind. In all the great commercial

centres of the country—London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, &c, there is no Sunday delivery of letters, and no inconvenience results from the arrangement. Surely, then, it is most anomalous that in our rural districts they should be deemed requisite. The physical exhaustion, consequent upon such continuous exertion, is only a lesser consideration; though this alone might well prompt us to do all in our power to abolish the pernicious custom. The evil example which the government thus sets before the people of the land is much to be regretted. Tradesmen and manufacturers are fined for trading or making their men work on Sunday, and yet the government which enforces the law against them, is itself breaking it every Sunday in more than 20,000 instances. Fortunately the bad example is not generally followed, though the temptation to do so is in some cases very great. Tradesmen with easy consciences may often forestall their rivals in business by writing through the Sunday post, and this of course leads to the employment of their clerks and workpeople, as well as to a great increase in the cab and railway traffic upon that day, so that the evil is by no means confined to those in the actual employ of the post-office. We have no desire to advocate an ultra-Sabbatarianism, which would make the Sabbath a gloomy, saddening day, instead of a day of refreshing rest and soothing contemplation; but we do say that it is the duty of a consistent Christian government to abolish all unnecessary Sunday labour over which it has direct control, and thus to set the good example of respect for that divine law which it desires the nation to obey.

It seems to us that there is little excuse at present for this practice. The telegraphs are now in the hands of the government, and all cases of real emergency could be easily met by their means, and we are at a loss to conceive a reason for its continuance, other than that proverbial dislike to change, which is the characteristic of all government offices. Not only is Sunday labour completely unnecessary, but is also entirely against the wishes of the great majority of the people. This has been amply proved by the efforts of the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Associ-

ation, which have resulted in thousands upon thousands of signatures being obtained to the formal request that letters for the persons signing might be kept till the Monday; 27,000 such signatures were obtained by only a partial canvass of the city of Liverpool in 1865-6, and in Birmingham and all other places the memorial for the entire suspension of Sunday labour met with an almost unanimous consent.

In the Parliamentary return issued in 1867 it is shown that 109,331 persons had signed the following stringent request (drawn up by the Post-office authorities):—

I request that my letters and newspapers may not be delivered on Sunday until further notice. I make this request with the full knowledge that this instruction cannot be cancelled until three months have expired, nor even then without a week's notice.

There can be no doubt that the number would have been much larger had not the letter-carriers been prohibited (on pain of dismissal) from moving in the matter, even in their own time, so that many persons were entirely ignorant of there being any such provision for the relief of the rural postman, and some, of course, did not like to give up their letters while the postmen passed their doors to deliver those of their neighbours, though doubtless they would willingly have done so if they saw the letter-carrier enjoying a day's rest in consequence of their slight self-denial. The rule laid down by the post-office for the abolition of a Sunday post in any particular district, is somewhat arbitrary and certainly unconstitutional. A simple majority is considered sufficient to settle questions of even greater importance, and nearly all public bodies are content to be bound by a decision given in that way; but the post-office requires the vote, not of six-sevenths of the inhabitants, but of the persons who receive six-sevenths of all the letters at the office on two successive Sundays, so that any unprincipled person might defeat the otherwise unanimous petition of a district by having a number of letters posted to himself on the days when the counting takes place. However, despite the unfairness of this rule, many districts have agreed to it; and, thanks to the association above named, many rural postmen, instead of tramping through mud or dust

some 18 or 20 miles with letters on Sunday, are enjoying the religious exercises and the recreative pleasures of that day.

Let us do all we can to place by their side their toiling brethren who still bend beneath the yoke. Humanity and religion alike prompt us to our duty, a duty plain and simple, which is to support with all our energies the motion lately brought before Parliament by Mr. C. Reed, M.P. for Hackney, for the exemption from Sunday labour of all letter-carriers and rural messengers throughout the country.—*The Graphic*.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

El Averiguador. Madrid: M. Rivadeneyra.

THIS paper is the Spanish equivalent of our English *Notes and Queries*. It deals with all manner of scientific and literary questions, and is altogether a very interesting publication. It has its philatelic section, in which various matters connected with Spanish stamps and the Spanish postal service are discussed, and we are pleased to observe the name of our esteemed correspondent, Senor Pardo de Figueroa, among the contributors. We can cordially recommend this journal to those among our readers who understand the language in which it is written.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEXICAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I have not seen it noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* that a difference exists among the current Mexican stamps. I have one set marked "Mazatlan," and dated 1868, which has no dot after the numeral of value; whilst another set, marked "Vera Cruz," and dated 1869 and 1870, has a dot after every numeral of value throughout the set. I do not perceive any other difference between the stamps.

I am, &c.,

Liverpool.

E.

NEW VARIETIES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for August, 1870, is a notice of the 30 c. brown French having the disc covered with *horizontal* lines. I have lately got a 40 c. laureated with lines, but *perpendicular*. I have also a 5 kr. Austrian with markings similar to this 30 centimes.

In a friend's collection I lately saw a 1d. Natal with POSTAGE surcharged in Gothic type, instead of Roman.

Should the foregoing be new to you, you would much oblige me by inserting this in the April number.

Yours faithfully,

Clifton.

W. E. C.

THE LIBERIAN STAMPS, &c.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The writer on the "Head and Figure of Liberty Stamps," in your last number, omitted noticing the interesting impressions of Liberia, whereon the personification, in addition to her normal shield (which has rather the appearance of Fortune's wheel) and the cap of liberty, has borrowed the spear of Minerva. The interpolation of the current Spanish is quite a mistake: the head decidedly symbolizes the country, as evidenced by the castellated crown, totally anomalous on a head of Liberty. The Cuba stamps in present use may be added with more propriety.

Your correspondent on the halfpenny wrapper seems unaware that all the bands at present issued at the post-offices bear the rosettes, the date not having been impressed since the early emission.

Johnson gives the meaning of the word *spud* to be "a short knife." The term is applied to a tool used to grub up weeds.

Yours obediently,

London.

PHILATELIST.

BADEN AND WURTEMBERG POST CARDS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that the Baden 18 kreuzer adhesive, and the 6 kreuzer envelope (blue), are out of use,—at least I have asked for them at the post, and they say they have not got them.

I do not understand what Mr. Overly Taylor or M. Moens mean by saying that there is a Baden post-card with a stamp on it. I have only seen cards without a stamp, but provided with a place for one; and of these I send you herewith a specimen. They can now be sent to England, France, Belgium, and Switzerland; but you have to put a 9 kreuzer stamp on for England and France, and a 7 kreuzer for Belgium.

There are two post-cards in Wurtemberg, one embossed with a 1 kreuzer stamp, and the other with a 3 kreuzer. I have not yet seen a card without a stamp, but I intend going to Wurtemberg soon, and will then make inquiries, and inform you of the result.

I expect the new German stamps will come into use on the 1st of January, 1872.

I remain, yours truly,

Carlsruhe.

F. H. SMYTHE.

THE HALFPENNY NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—By the time you receive this note, you will no doubt have discovered that your correspondent, "J. C.," of Manchester, was mistaken in his supposition about the halfpenny wrapper. The "variety" with the conventional heraldic rose, in place of the "1-10-70" is as much a government issue as the other. The post-office officials, doubtless, thought it a very needless piece of work to alter the dates on such an insignificant thing as the die of a halfpenny wrapper (for altered they *would* have been, as surely as the penny envelope is altered), and so bethought themselves of the expedient of doing away with the date altogether, and putting in its place

the national emblem. In many of the larger towns the stock of dated wrappers is already exhausted. Here, in Birmingham, there are no wrappers on sale at the general post office but the *undated ones*; and the dated ones can only be obtained at some of the small local offices, where the demand has not been sufficient to exhaust the original stock. The same thing occurs with regard to the post-cards; for, although the general office here has long since ceased to issue the *large cards*, yet they are the only ones to be had at some of the smaller offices.

Birmingham.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. E.

THE HEAD ON THE SPANISH STAMPS OF 1870 AND 1871.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I have just read in No. 98 of your excellent journal, Mr. Cavell's article entitled "Head and Figure of Liberty Stamps:" you are quite right in expressing, in your foot-note to that article, your doubt as to whether the goddess of Liberty was intended to be represented by the head on the current Spanish stamps. The following are the facts relative to the meaning and the adoption of this design:—

Shortly after the fall of Isabella II., and the revolution of 1868, the provisional government consulted the Academy of History—one of the most respectable literary and scientific corporations in Spain—upon the choice of an allegorical representation of the country. A commission appointed by the Academy, and consisting of Messieurs Olozaga, Fernandez Guerra, Rossell, and Saavedra, proposed (and their proposition was approved by the government) that the symbol of Spain should be a figure similar to those which are depicted on the Emperor Adrian's medals; that is to say, a matron, seated, with an olive branch in her right hand and a crown on her head, in token of the national sovereignty. This figure is represented in full-length on the Spanish impressed revenue stamp; and on the newly-struck coins, as also on the lately emitted Cuban postage stamps. The head alone forms the grotesque ornament of my country's stamps.

M. Moens was right when he observed in his journal, *Le Timbre-Poste*, so long since as December, 1869, that "the effigy of which we speak might be taken at a distance for the head of Liberty, whilst in fact it represents Spain under an allegorical figure."

Trusting this information may be of use.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

Medina Sidonia.

MR STOURTON'S REPLY TO FENTONIA.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Fentonia's reasoning, so far as I understand it, is curious. The lady denies that *aiæresis* is a Latin word, merely because it has a Greek equivalent in *diapearsis*. Fentonia might just as well attempt to assert that the words "geography" and "subterranean" were not English, but, respectively, Greek and Latin, because they are derived from those two languages. Surely, while professing to correct me, she might have avoided that *non sequitur* line of argument.

One would have thought, too, that Messrs. Pemberton and Atlee had harped enough on that unfortunate "youngest reader" string, without Fentonia's wandering from her disquisition on German and Anglo-German grammarians, for the purpose of recurring to it. Having been educated at Westminster, a public school, second to none in the kingdom, that has turned out such men as

Dryden, Ben Jonson, Cowper, Southey, and (its numbers being considered) more eminent men than any other public school, I am the better able to bear the brunt of Fentonia's remark as to my not having been educated at Eton; at the same time I would remark that my having forgotten—after a lapse of some ten years—the prosody part of the Latin grammar, does not necessarily imply that I am a "raw student," still less that I should be perplexed by such a word as *diaeresis*.

Never having studied German, I am quite unable to answer the question put to me by Fentonia, concerning accents used in that language.

The lady again jumps to a wrong conclusion when she asserts that I had not a single forged specimen of the Geneva or Zurich stamps to compare the genuine with, as I had two forgeries of the 10 c. double cantonal, by far the most important, because the rarest of the Geneva stamps. What I said in my letter (published in the February number) was, that I had none of the 5 c. cantonal stamps (which are much more easily to be met with than the double stamp) to compare the genuine with.

Fentonia is also mistaken in supposing *tréma* to be a Greek word; this time she is wrong, without the shadow of a doubt, as it is not even derived from the Greek, the nearest approach to it being the word *τρημα*, which, I need hardly say, has quite a different signification. I am sorry that Fentonia does not consider *tréma* to be a French word, as it is to be found in every French dictionary I have looked.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

London.

J. M. STOURTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. MAX JOSEPH.—The differences in the shades of the current Austrian stamps were duly chronicled in our last volume (p. 122).

Mrs. E., Liverpool.—We are obliged for your information respecting the wrapper; you will observe that our speculation of last month has called forth several replies.

R. M., University Club, Dublin.—The French five centimes laureated was never issued, nor have we been so fortunate as to see a proof; if we are to believe a report which is now afloat, the whole of the stock has been destroyed.

E. S., Wilton Tower, near Darlington.—The undated halfpenny wrapper being now in general use, is not rarer than the dated variety, and probably in time the latter will become somewhat scarce.—The thin-lined 2d. is not rarer than the thick-lined.

A. W. S., Cheltenham.—Both Levrault and the editor of Oppen's album are in error as to the value of the quattrino. 100 quattrini were worth about 1 f. 40 c. The value of the Tuscan lira was 84 centimes (say 8½d.), and it contained 60 quattrini, therefore five are worth 7 centimes.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe.—We reproduce, in another column, your information respecting the Baden and Württemberg post-cards.—Both varieties of the halfpenny wrapper should be collected; the field-post envelopes are collectable *à discrétion*.—Do you know what is to be the design of the new German stamps?

J. C., Manchester.—We regret, equally with yourself, our unqualified publication of the suggestion emanating from you respecting the halfpenny wrapper, which decidedly deserves the epithet "sensible"—commendation which it is difficult to apply to the course adopted by the post-office.—There is nothing surprising in your receipt of a letter from Paris bearing the imperial stamps on it; those of the republic are now scarce.

RAMPONT v. THEISZ.

It is not often that the fate of a government is intimately connected with the delivery of letters. A despatch written by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs may plunge two countries into war; the maladministration of the army or navy may cause the fall of a ministry; the expediency of educating the children of the gutter may become a cabinet question; but, amidst the turmoil of discussion which such matters may cause, the post-office continues to perform its daily round of functions undisturbed, and the postmaster is, at any rate, at ease respecting his department. He, too, may be displaced, but the machinery of the post-office is not disarranged by his fall,—Jones comes in and Brown goes out, but the post works on for ever. In France, however, recent events have drawn marked attention to the post-office; the interruption of its service in the capital has been at once the indication and the result of serious disturbances, and the postmaster who might have been content to rest on the peaceful laurels gained during the siege, finds greatness thrust upon him. All the world is talking about M. Rampont and the pretender to his chair, M. Theisz, the "chaser of metals" as he is termed, with quaintly expressed scorn, by certain newspaper correspondents, and we would wager that their *cartes de visite* would find a ready sale anywhere.

The action of the contending postmasters has had no slight effect in discontenting the Parisians with the Communal régime, and as it illustrates also a curious page in postal history, it deserves, we think, more than a passing notice in these columns. Perhaps before these lines see the light, the whole affair will be but a memory of the past; but to-day, whilst we write, the telegram from the chief of the executive, announcing a fight yesterday (3rd April), in front of Versailles is being cried in the street, and it is not yet certain whether M. Rampont or the chaser of metals will remain master of the Parisian post-office.

M. Rampont, let us explain at starting, was appointed postmaster of Paris during the siege, whilst M. Stenackers directed the

provincial service. Who, or what M. Rampont had been before is not known, but he certainly showed himself to be the right man in the right place, and we philatelists may thank him for having brought into use again the fine old stamps of 1848. Of his general capacity the following extract from *The Daily News* (Paris correspondence, 31 March, 1871), is no inapt testimony.

Let me say, in passing, that M. Rampont is one of the ablest public servants in France. His management of the post-office during the siege reflects the greatest honour on him. He is full of ideas, and he was most energetic in working them out. The balloon service and the pigeon service which he established were the most successful enterprises of the siege, and will make him a name in history. If he remain in office he will no doubt perfect the postal service, and correct the many deficiencies which Frenchmen perhaps do not see, but which we English, who live under a better system, keenly feel.

Of his adversary, Monsieur Theisz, absolutely nothing is known, beyond the bare fact that he is a "chaser of metals," an occupation which does not imply any special qualification for the management of the post-office. "Citizen" Theisz has come to the surface with the Commune, and, unless events take a very unexpected turn, is likely to sink back into obscurity with his socialist friends; still he has for the moment made his mark, and his pertinacious insistence shows him to be quite as resolute a man in his way as M. Rampont.

Of his struggle for possession of the post-office, the following seem to be the leading facts. On Monday, the 27th March, the day after the Paris elections (we are quoting from *Le Soir*), M. Rampont received the visit of Citizen Theisz, member of the committee, and municipal councillor, elected by the 12th and 18th arrondissements. The Citizen Theisz was the bearer of a little paper, with the committee's stamp on it, whereon was written an order, conceived in something like the following terms:—

In view of the disorganisation at present existing in the postal service, and,

Considering that it is needful to provide for the supersession of the present administrator,

The Citizen Theisz is charged with the direction of the postal service.

M. Rampont was expecting this visit; a week previously he had read in the *Cri du Peuple* some lines announcing the nomination of M. Theisz to the postmaster-generalship,

and since then, a number of national guards, among others M. Theisz's two brothers, had been to inquire for the new director, and had found the door closed.

M. Rampont, after he had deciphered the little document, replied coldly that he did not recognise the committee, and that he considered as null and void the order of which Citizen Theisz was the bearer.

"If the elected municipal council," added M. Rampont, "thinks proper to encroach upon the prerogatives of the executive power, and of the Versailles Assembly,—if that council thinks it right and proper to revoke my appointment, I shall then see what I have to say. I will only observe to you, *Monsieur*, that the disorganisation of which the committee speaks does not exist, and that the postal service is the only public one which has not suffered by present events."

Be it so, politely rejoined Citizen Theisz, but I can assure you in advance that the Commune will not recognise the Versailles government, and that it will have to decide whether it ought to maintain you at the head of the post-office.

M. Rampont replied that these gentlemen of the Commune did not at all hold to the principles laid down in their *Officiel* journal, wherein they had published a decree revoking all such ministerial *employés* as might be absent from their post on the 25th March. Having himself never quitted the *hotel des postes*, he considered his revocation as null and void, and he further declared he would only give up when real force should be employed.

M. Theisz then retired, and did not reappear, but the Versailles government having declared that every *employé* serving the commune would forfeit his post, and the Communal *Officiel* of the 29th March containing a decree, according to which the different public services must consider the orders of the government of Versailles as void, M. Rampont no longer hesitated. He started for Versailles yesterday, with the whole of the *matériel*, and has there established his head office, leaving the federals to get out of the mess the best way they can.

M. Theisz has issued his version, to the

effect that his opponent had agreed provisionally to remain in Paris, and that he had run away, in breach of his agreement. Be that as it may, the departure of M. Rampont has caused the utmost annoyance in Paris, and has done a great deal to discredit the Commune. To keep the Parisians without their letters is to hit them in their weakest point, by renewing one of the most troublesome incidents of the siege, and this at a moment when commerce was just reviving. A deputation of merchants and others waited on the committee to remonstrate on this new interruption to business, and so anxious were the rulers of Paris to set themselves right with their fellow-citizens, that they issued a notice to the effect that, without recognising Versailles, they would be willing to come to some arrangement about the resumption of the postal service; they even sent some of their friends to Versailles to negotiate for the neutralisation of the post-office, but without effect. At the present moment, therefore, letters for Paris are addressed *poste-restante*, Versailles, and those who can get out go there and claim them, but the claimants are few.

The Paris postmen themselves are in a curious position, as the following letter, ostensibly emanating from one of their number, in which a real grievance is detailed, will prove.

PARIS, 2nd April, 1871.

SIR,—The spirit in which the *Petit Journal* is conducted is so full of good sense and moderation, that I do not hesitate to confide to you the strange perplexity into which I have fallen during the last few days.

A postman for more than twenty years past, and having submitted to the monthly deductions, which are to form my superannuation pension, what must I do to perform my duties as *employé*, and also as husband and father? If I obey Versailles, I am discharged in Paris; and if I place myself under the flag of the Commune, I lose my right to a pension.

My box, a veritable Pandora's box, is so destitute of letters, that even hope does not hide in it.

However easy it may appear to do the work of a postman, you would not believe, sir, how much dexterity is required in order to sort the letters at the chief office. We do not simply make our rounds in our respective quarters, we have to prepare for the distribution before the break of day, and there pass through our hands, letters from Calcutta, Rome, St. Petersburg, &c., &c.

I don't know how our improvised successors will get out of the muddle. Members of the Commune can be improvised, were they Chinese; so also generals of division *extra-muros*, and even postmasters-general; but not postmen. We are at once the hands and the movement of the great postal clock, and to exercise our modest

functions, a pretty long apprenticeship is required. As for me, I am so fond of my profession, that I make my rounds every morning with my empty box, and chat with the *concierges* of the *unlettered* houses.

How long will it be before I carry news of a son to his mother; of a wife to her husband; of a daughter to her father; to say nothing of the registered letters, which bring abundance to the hearth, and aid in the keeping of sacred engagements? My natural goodness makes me deplore the lot of my favourite receivers, and forget all the evils of my own position.

A word of advice, if you please, and you will *free* me from many a torment now and hereafter.

ZEPHYRIN, Man of Letters,
Street of the Four Winds.

The plaintive Zephyrin and his friends will, let us hope, preserve their pensions, and meanwhile they might earn an honest penny by constituting themselves unofficial letter-carriers to the provinces.

To get letters in or out of Paris, various plans are now resorted to. The passenger trains still run between Paris and the departments, or, at any rate, between Paris and the north of France, and of course every traveller brings out letters and journals. The engine-drivers are making a fine harvest, as a good many letters are handed to them for delivery at one end or the other, and *their* postal rates are high. A third means of communication came to our knowledge only to-day. A manufacturer in the town whence we write, received a rather large case by passenger train from Paris, with a request written on the upper side that it might be opened immediately. The recipient complied with the request, and found the sole contents of the case to be a letter from the sender, containing an order for goods, of which he was in pressing need.

In Paris itself, M. Theisz, if we may believe his proclamation, is engaged in organising the interior service, and hopes soon to get it in order, whilst the Commune, in its proclamation respecting the fighting on the 2nd instant, piteously exclaims that the Versailles people, after depriving them of their letters, have gone to the extremity of using force. The importance thus attached to the stoppage of the service, though great, is not exaggerated, and when contemporary history is hereafter studied, it will, we think, be admitted that nothing weakened the power of the Commune more than the appointment to the postmastership of Citizen Theisz, *vice* Rampont, run away.

THE PERUVIAN STAMPS.

(Translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, February, 1871.)

(Continued from page 61.)

WE now arrive at the series of stamps in relief, struck by M. Lecocq's machine. Great preparations were made for the reception of this machine, which came from Paris. Its arrival is announced in the following terms:

Post-office Department.

On the 14th of September, 1862, took place the reception of the Lecocq machine, for the fabrication of stamps, which machine had been ordered in Paris.

I opened the case containing the two matrices of the 1 dinero and 1 peseta in the presence of the *employés*, and of the secretary of the treasury, and I deposited them in the safe of the administration, placing with them the sealed document containing the secrets marks of, and remarks on the stamps.

That the fabrication may be accompanied with all the necessary precautions, the director of the posts, using the authority which is conferred on him by the 12th article of the supreme decree of the 19th October, 1857, and other dispositions relative to the fabrication of stamps, establishes the following instructions, to avoid all abuse.

1.—The machine shall be deposited in a safe and isolated place, well covered in to preserve it from damp.

2.—The printing of the stamps shall be confided to a competent person, on clearly-defined terms, and on condition that he shall execute any repairs which the machine may require, at his own cost.

3.—Whenever it shall be necessary to print a supply of stamps, the matrix shall be taken out of its case in presence of the secretary to the treasury, and handed to the person by whom it has to be used. The same formalities shall be observed on replacing the matrix in the case.

4.—Pursuant to the fifth article of the decree cited, a memorandum of the number of stamps worked off each day shall be entered in a special register; such note shall be signed by the *chef de service*, the contractor, and the *employé* charged to superintend the impression, in the presence and with the "intervention" (*sic.*) of the secretary to the treasury, who shall be present from beginning to end, and shall take note of the quantity furnished, of which he shall make out a certificate.

5.—Stamps which from any cause whatever may be spoilt, and stamps printed in excess of the quantity required—which quantity should always be a round number—must be burnt.

6.—A numbered bulletin of each working, signed by the contractor, and countersigned according to the rules laid down by article 4, shall be handed to the director.

7.—The contractor, to protect his personal responsibility, may envelop the matrices in a sheet of paper sealed with his private seal.

8.—The deposit of the stamps with the cashier shall be declared on the bulletin referred to in art. 6.

9.—Only the workmen shall be allowed to enter the place where the stamps are printed. It is forbidden to introduce therein either strangers, relations, or friends.

10.—The department will decide on the type of the stamps to be printed, and the colours, reserving to itself the right to inspect at its pleasure the execution of the work, and, in short, taking all necessary steps to ensure a proper check being kept.

11.—The *employé* charged with the superintendence of the work shall take oath to do his duty faithfully.

12.—When the contractor shall have completed the quantity of stamps he is engaged to print, his security shall be returned to him, and he shall be paid what is due to him.

Lastly, as great confidence on the part of the department will be reposed in those charged with the work, it is hoped that all the foregoing regulations will be carefully observed.

(Signed)

DAVILA.

We have nothing to add to our former article respecting this emission, if it be not the announcement made by *Læ Timbrophile* of the existence of a 1 dinero red, "of which the arms are by mistake struck upside down." For us, who have seen Lecocq's machine at work in Brussels, it is difficult to explain how such an *erreur d'impression* was possible. To believe, we should like to touch these stamps—for M. Mahé says he has seen several.

The official documents do not speak of the 1866-7 series, engraved by the American Bank-Note Company. We wrote to Lima inquiring the reason, and got the following reply :

No mention is made of the 5, 10, and 20 cents. stamp, engraved at New York, because they were ordered during the dictatorship, all whose acts were illegal, and, consequently, null.

This answer seems to us so logical that we have no comment to make on it.

The letter rate having been reduced by one half from the 1st January, 1861, between the towns of Lima, Callao, and Chorillos, recourse was had—pending the arrival of the 5 centavos ordered of the American Bank-Note Company—to a half stamp of the 1 dinero red (the dinero equalling 10 centavos), until the 5th June, 1866, at which date the 5 c. green were put in circulation. The 10 cent. red and 20 cent. brown appeared about the middle of the year 1867, and are too well known to need special remark.

The Peruvian dictatorship having probably met with "its Sedan," there comes to hand one fine day a green 1 dinero, identical in design with the red stamp of the same value. Every one in the philatelic world inquires about this stamp from every one else, and each replies, as in the *Dame-Blanche*, "I cannot understand it at all."

M. Mahé learns that an earthquake had taken place in Peru—which was the cause of the emission,—and without losing time he

gives the news in his journal without any reserve. This is history, therefore let us give the information *verbatim*.

We have now the explanation of the change in the stamps. The plates of the 5, 10, and 20 centavos, and those of the fiscal stamps engraved by the American Bank-Note Company, were all destroyed in the last earthquake. It has been necessary then, pending the preparation of fresh plates, to have recourse to the old type, and it required but little time or labour to get ready a sufficient supply of stamps.

It must be admitted that the earthquake caused some singular effects in Peru. It respects at Lima the Lecocq machine deposited there, and at New York, where it was not felt, it destroys in the workshops of the American Bank-Note Company the plates of the 5, 10, and 20 cent. stamps, no doubt because they belonged to the Peruvian post office!

On the 18th July, 1868, the director-general of the post addressed the following circular to the post offices :

LIMA, 18th July, 1868.

(Circular, No. 63.)

New postage stamps have been fabricated by the machine possessed by the post office, which stamps have the relief white and the frame green. Persons who possess the old stamps with white relief and carmine frame may exchange them at any post office against those of the new emission. After the month of August next prepayment by means of the old stamps will not be allowed.

I have to announce also that the stamps termed *fiscal stamps*, issued during the dictatorship, will not be any longer accepted in payment of postage, neither will those previously issued, and intended to be used as receipts of taxes paid.

I address you these instructions for your guidance, and that you may acquaint the public with them by means of placards, and, further, that you may inform your subordinates.

God guard you.

JOSE DAVILA CONDEMARIN.

The green 1 dinero stamp has never been perforated, as had been reported, neither have there ever been any half or one peso stamps of this type issued.

A letter addressed on the 1st May, 1869, to the director-general of Lima, by the minister, A. Manuel J. Ferreyros, decides that all the stamps shall henceforth be printed by the postal department—hence it results that the contract with the New York company no longer exists.

In the letter we wrote to Lima we expressed our surprise at the abandonment of the decimal system adopted under the dictatorship. The following was the reply :

There has been no change in the currency. The decimal system had been established it is true, but a sol equals 100 centavos, whilst a peso was worth only 80. The sol represents 5 pesetas and the dinero is the half of a peseta, or ten centavos.

Although there has been no change in the money we still see that the peso on becoming a sol gains 20 per cent. in value! He may explain who can the sense in which the above passage should be understood.

The fall of the dictatorship (M. Mahé's earthquake) having entailed the disgrace of the New York company's stamps, which were suppressed by a decree of the 1st May, 1869, the postal director began to think of replacing the 5 c. (llama) green, then nearly exhausted (the 10 c. was suppressed in consequence of the emission of the 1 dinero green, which was its equivalent), whilst still leaving the 20 centavos brown in temporary circulation.

The authorisation to that effect which he solicited from the minister reached him in the following shape:

LIMA, 15th September, 1869.

To the Director-general of the Post.

On the proposal made by you relative to the rate for correspondence between this capital, Callao, and Chorillos, I send you the following decree, dated the 4th of this month.

"In view of the present proposition of the director-general of the post, the decree of the 29th December, 1865, is again put in force. The postage of letters between Lima, Callao, and Chorillos is reduced by one half, consequently the director-general is authorised to print postage stamps of 5 centavos, destined for the prepayment of such postage."

I communicate to you this decree for your information. God guard you.

RAFAEL VELARDE.

The stamp here referred to is the one reproduced in No. 92 of this journal.* It will only be definitely put in circulation in April, 1871; nevertheless, for a long time past, obliterated specimens have come over.



We transcribe the sub-joined document concerning this stamp, in which it is more than ever question of secret marks.

Post-office,

LIMA, 12th September, 1870.

Pursuant to the authorisation conceded to me by the supreme decree of the 18th September, 1869, to prepare 5

centavo postage stamps for the prepayment of the correspondence between Lima, Callao, and Chorillos, I have had a matrix prepared whence to print a design, containing, in relief, the national shield in the centre, with the words PORTE FRANCO; the representation of a locomotive, and the words LIMA—CALLAO—CHORILLOS on the four sides. This type contains secret marks, to facilitate the discovery of forgeries, and will be printed by means of the Lecocq machine kept at the post-office. Lastly, the impression will be in carmine, and the stamps will be deposited at the public post until a period to be ulteriorly fixed; meanwhile, the green 5 cent. stamps will serve for the same purpose.

(Signed) DAVILA.

Finding nothing mysterious in the 5 centavos of the new type, nor in any of the stamps of preceding emissions, we took the liberty to inquire from Lima in what the secret marks consisted. We were answered that "these secret marks were in a sealed envelope, were kept for the purpose of making comparisons, and that, therefore, our request for information could not be complied with."

We are puzzled by so many mysteries; secret marks in a sealed envelope, hidden in the bottom of a case which cannot be other than secret, which case is itself put in an isolated but safe spot. We are almost inclined to offer a years' subscription to *Le Timbre-Poste* to the persons who may penetrate the secret; we might, perhaps, thus satisfy our own and our readers' curiosity.

The return of the 1 dinero brown into circulation is not mentioned in any of the official documents which have been communicated to us, but the postmaster's letter gives the following stamps as now in use:

5 centavos red (Lima-Callao, &c.), printed by the Lecocq machine.

1 dinero green (old type) ditto.

1 peseta brown ditto ditto.

The 5, 10, and 20 c., printed in New York, will likewise be accepted until the stock is exhausted; the post-office only delivers the 20 c. brown, and even that, it would seem, is replaced in certain localities by the 1 peseta brown.

THE STATIONERS AND ENVELOPE MAKERS are agitating against the sale of the halfpenny post-cards at their facial value, alleging that it constitutes on the part of the post-office an unfair competition with the stationers in the supply of envelopes. We doubt the success of the agitation, as this is a case in which private interest should certainly yield to the public benefit. The only way to put down the post-card would be to reduce the postage on closed letters to a halfpenny.

* [And in No. 92 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. We reproduce this stamp for our readers' guidance.—ED.]

PARAGUAY AND ITS STAMPS.

BY DR. WONNER, OF MONTE-VIDEO.

EDITED BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

As Paraguay has at last given to the world a bona-fide emission of postage labels, the writer thinks that a short sketch of the country itself, and of the philatelic impositions which have been fathered upon it, may be of interest to collectors. He is compelled, in many instances, to go over well-trodden paths, but as his wish is to make this a complete history of Paraguayan postage stamps, essays and falsities, he hopes his tautology will be excused.

The Republic of Paraguay is bounded on the south by the Argentine province of Corrientes, from which it is divided by the river Paraná; upon the north and east of Paraguay is the empire of Brazil. The Spaniards, Cabot, Garcia, and Cabeza de Vaca, were the first to discover this country, which they did in the sixteenth century. In the year 1620, the country was placed under the rule of a Spanish governor, and by a royal grant, dated 8th August, 1776 (upon forming the viceroyship of Buenos Ayres), the same form of government was renewed, and continued until 1811. On the 14th of May, in that year, the people rose against the Spanish, and formed a provisional government composed of three persons; the following June an assembly was installed, which elected a council of five members, at the same time declaring itself independent of Buenos Ayres. Since then it has been a free and distinct nation.

On October 12th, 1813, the council was dissolved, and in its place two consuls were named, one of them being Dr. Gaspar Rodríguez Francia, and the other, Dr. Fulgencio Yegros. The latter resigned in 1814, and on the 30th October of the same year, the congress named Francia dictator of Paraguay for three years; in 1817 that time was extended, and from then till his death, in 1840, he held the reins of power. Few men tyrannised more than he did over the countries they ruled. On his death a council was formed; but in spite of this there were several revolutions in that and the succeeding years. On the 14th of May, 1841, C. A. Lopez and Alonzo were elected consuls.

On the 25th November, 1842, the independence of Paraguay was re-declared, and its separation from the republic of the River Plate finally settled; its flag had been determined upon the previous April. On the 16th May, 1844, the consulships were abolished, and Don Carlos Antonio Lopez made president and supreme dictator of the republic, which office he held until his death, which occurred September 10th, 1862. Upon his decease he was succeeded by his son, General Francisco Solano Lopez, who was elected by the congress on the 18th October in the same year. It is not the writer's intention to speak of the political affairs that happened in the republic during the government of the latter. It is, therefore, enough to say that on the 12th of November, 1864, the war between Paraguay and Brazil was commenced, and on the 29th of March, 1865, war was also declared against the Argentine Republic. In consequence of this declaration a treaty of alliance was signed on the 1st May, at Buenos Ayres, between Brazil and the Argentine and Oriental Republics against Paraguay. The war may be said to have terminated on the 1st March, 1870, at the battle of Aquidaban, where President Lopez was killed.

Upon the 18th August, 1869, a council was installed at Asuncion, forming a provisional government, which was composed of a triumvirate, one of whom resigned last May, the two remaining being Rivarola and Loizaga, who continue still in power. It is due to the government of these latter that some true progress has been made, including free trade, and the emission of postage stamps.

More than a decade of years has passed since the well-known essays appeared with the lion and "moderator lamp" in the centre. That this design really was submitted to the government there seems to be no doubt, but their worth is but trifling. Collectors who desire to possess copies from the original die, must be careful that they are not imposed upon, as several imitations are current.

In 1864, the large oval impression, of

which we give an engraving was brought out by some speculative timbrophilist, but the device never existed as a stamp. The editor of this article has in his possession an envelope from a government official in Paraguay sealed with the exact counterpart of our sketch, but that is the sole shape in which the design was ever used.

In 1865 a trio of essays was prepared in Paris, and forwarded to Lopez, who could not accept them because of the war; and in 1869 they were brought under the notice of the provisional government, which did not accept the offer "because it had already contracted for the new stamps." This the writer knows to be the case, having the proofs before him.

In 1868 philatelists were deceived by the oblong label concocted by the Boston firm of swindlers. The execution of this bare-faced imposter is very fine, and it was a disappointment to collectors to find so much talent wasted upon what was absolutely worthless.

After the establishment of the provisional administration, the letters were franked in Asuncion and other large cities, by a circular hand-stamp impressed in blue. The design consisted of a star in a circle, surrounded by an outer circle, containing the word CORREOS, and the name of the place of issuing. Another device was sometimes used; it was very plain, resembling an ordinary English postmark. In a circle was inscribed the name of the town, the date, and R. P. This was also struck in blue.

Previous to the adoption of the above

franking-marks, the large oblong oval impression described and figured at page 170 of the seventh volume of this magazine,



was used. It continued until April, 1865, and in addition to being struck in black, as stated by a former writer, it is found

in red. For the benefit of new subscribers, the design is here reproduced.

Last, but very far from least, come the newly-emitted adhesives. They are now so well known, that a simple list of their values and colours may be deemed sufficient.

- 1 real rose.
- 2 „ blue.
- 3 „ black.

For illustrative description of the trio, the reader is referred to the number of this journal for December last. The designs of these stamps are copied from their Argentine equivalents, but, being native productions, they are far below the finished engravings of the American Bank-Note Company. Perhaps some day the Paraguayan postmaster will think of following the example of so many other South American states, and obtain his stamps from New York, in which case we may hope to see a more worthy representation of the redoubtable Paraguayan lion than that which adorns the current series.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE present article, from causes which we need not here enter into, must necessarily be a short one; but we are glad to be able to introduce herein some interesting novelties, amongst the principal of which are three new stamps for the

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—*The Honolulu Gazette* announces their appearance in the following terms:—

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.—Specimens of the new Hawaiian postage stamps were received by the postmaster-general on Monday by the "Comet." The designs are very handsome and appropriate, and correspond with the two and five cent stamps now in use. The stamps re-

ceived are of the denominations of one, six, and eighteen cents. The one cent is violet coloured, with a vignette of the late Princess Victoria Kamamalu; the six cent stamp is green, with the likeness of His Majesty; and the eighteen cent is pink, with the likeness of His late Highness M. Kekuanaoa, all of which are most perfect likenesses.

All three stamps are very finely executed, and are evidently from the same *atelier* as the present United States series; the likeness is even preserved in the colours. The 1 cent is of a rich mauve, nearly akin to that of the 24 c. United States; the 6 cents is of the same shade of green as the 3 c. United States, and the 18 cents is a little darker than the 6 c. United States. All three values have the word HAWAII at the top, in a curved label, with numerals right and left, and the value in a similar label below, the effigy being, in each instance, in an upright oval. The denominations are thus expressed:—

Akahi Keneta, mauve.

Eono Keneta, green.

18 *Keneta*, 18, rosy-red.

The portraits are of the usual Hawaiian type, and form interesting additions to our postage-stamp gallery. We shall hope, later on to be able to give some information respecting each of the celebrities represented.

Mr. C. W. Lomler, of San Francisco, to whose thoughtfulness we owe the privilege of being among the first to notice the new emission, sends us specimens of each value, which our engraver is now copying from, and we hope to give the illustrations in our next. Mr. Lomler calls attention to the very heavy postmarking to which the stamps are subjected, whereby used copies are rendered of little value. In a specimen of the 1 cent the *fair* face of the Princess Kamamalu is so darkened as to be unrecognisable by her dearest friends.

RUSSIA.—Our indefatigable correspondent at St. Petersburg, has succeeded in “unearthing,” if we may use the term, another pair of those tantalising and interesting local stamps which are issued by the local tribunals. They are as follows:—

1.—*Berdiansk*.—10 kopeck stamp, issued by the district court of a town of the same name, in the government of Taurida, on the sea of Azof. The design is contained in an upright rectangle, divided transversely into

two unequal portions, the upper of which, coloured green, contains the representation, in black, of a plough and a hovel; the lower, coloured blue, bears an anchor in black. The external frame is uncoloured, and around its four sides are inscribed, in Russian characters, the words STAMP OF BERDIANSK RURAL POST. At each corner is a kind of scroll ornament, bearing the figure 10, indicative of the value:

10 kop., blue, green, and black.

2.—*Tver*.—A stamp, value 2 kopecks, issued for use in the villages of the Tver district, and of an extremely simple type. It consists of a rose-coloured ring, bearing the Russian inscription TVER VILLAGE POST, and roughly following the inner circumference of this ring is a blue circle, containing in the centre, also in blue, the value 2 k. This blue portion of the design is evidently struck after the printing off of the rose, as it encroaches thereon. Around the rose circle, but at a considerable distance from it, is a faint red rectangle, formed of a single line, and serving merely to divide one stamp from another.

2 kop. rose and blue.

Both the above are adhesives, not only in form, but in fact. The town of Tver, whence hails the second, is about half way between St. Petersburg and Moscow, and is the county town of a government of the same name.

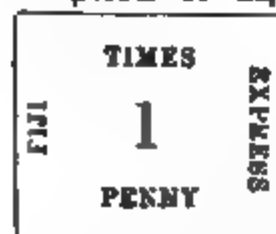
Our correspondent corrects us in the spelling of the name of the local described in our March number; instead of *Longa* it should be *Louga*; he also informs us that this *Louga* stamp is a label, and not an envelope, and therefore may be stuck on any part of the letter. The figures on the shield are meant to represent, in upper half, a horse, in lower a basket, as conjectured by us. Our correspondent has just obtained the loan of a post-office *employé's* collection of Russian locals, believed to be nearly complete, and promises to send us, very shortly, a description of all the novelties it may contain.

SARAWAK.—A new three-cent stamp for this country, bearing the head of the present rajah looking to the left, has just made its appearance. It is printed brown on yellow,

like its predecessor, but is a squarer stamp, and is lettered at the corners C.—R. R.—S.

FIJI ISLANDS.—From *The Philatelist* we gain information of another Fiji stamp, and as our contemporary is alone responsible for the character of the new comer, we give his announcement of it in his own terms.

"Our February number contained a description of an emission for these islands, value sixpence. This month we have the pleasure of announcing the appearance of another value; and having been favoured with the loan of a specimen, we



give our subscribers a description and illustration thereof. It is printed in black ink, on thin overland rose-tinted paper, with roulette perforation. Our correspondent can vouch for the genuine character of the stamp, it having been used with another specimen of the same value, to defray the postage to Melbourne of a copy of the *Fiji Times*, which was brought over to England by the last Australian mail."

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We learn from *The Philatelist*, that "At the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, the president exhibited a set of envelopes which had been prepared for postal use, but eventually rejected. There are four values. The one penny red, the stamp on which is the same as that employed for the earliest emission of newspaper wrappers in that colony. The two-penny is similar in every respect, except in colour, which is blue, and, of course, the words of value. A sixpenny violet bears the same head as the others, within a circular frame, bearing above NEW SOUTH WALES in small capitals. Above, again, in a small semi-circular band, POSTAGE; in a similar one below, SIXPENCE. These bands are connected by ornamentation. The complete stamp forms a hexagon. The shilling is octagonal and pink; with this exception, almost identical with the preceding. They are stamped to the right, and have SPECIMEN impressed in black letters just below the stamp."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We ought to have mentioned in our last that the fourpence,

now transformed into a threepence, has also changed colour, being now a kind of indigo-blue, and sky-blue, instead of mauve. The indigo is found with the red, and the sky blue with the black surcharge.

QUEENSLAND.—A correspondent sends us four specimens of the current sixpence watermarked Q and crown, and not previously noticed by us. The four specimens are of different shades, varying from emerald to chrome-green.

MAURITIUS.—The annexed design represents a frank stamp, used by the Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, as the inscription itself indicates. It is struck in red. M. Moens announces that he has come across a greek-bordered two-

pence, with the value *two-pence*

CUBA.—As a companion to the above design, we present, herewith, the illustration of a stamp which is struck on letters from soldiers forming part of the Spanish army in Cuba. The inscription reads, GENERAL COMMAND OF THE OPERATIONS



OF ——— E.M. (*Estado Mayor*, or staff). The impression is in black. This stamp, we should mention, was originally discovered by Senor de Figueroa.

Mons. Moens catalogues, in all, five varieties of the $Y\frac{1}{4}$ stamps (2 reales, 1855, and '57 with $Y\frac{1}{4}$ surcharged in black), namely:—

- 1st type, Y very narrow.
- 2nd " Y very broad.
- 3rd " Y medium size, figure 4, medium.
- 4th " Y " " " 4, very broad.
- 5th " Y " " " 4, thin.

The first four types are met with on the 1855 issue, the last three on that of 1857.

We should not like to support the above classification, before assuring ourselves that not only the stamp, but the surcharge is genuine. Nothing is easier than to strike the $Y\frac{1}{4}$ on an ordinary stamp, and it is not long since we had occasion to signalize the existence of a number of *Spanish* stamps, fraudulently surcharged with the above mark. In that instance the stupidity of the fraud was sufficient to destroy it, but in the present case there is no check whatever. *El Averiguador*, a Madrid journal, declares that forged $Y\frac{1}{4}$ exist, and an esteemed correspondent, Mr. Ysasi, calls our attention to, and confirms the statement of the Spanish paper. Under these circumstances, a little caution in accepting the new varieties will not be out of place.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—One of our correspondents sends us specimens of the 2, 10, and 20 centimes, with the ground inverted, an error resulting from the sheets having been put wrong end forward into the press.

TURKEY.—The same correspondent forwards us a 10 para Turkish *deep grey*, which we suspect to be a changeling.

FRANCE.—The perforated and unperforated series continue in circulation side by side, but the currency of the latter is likely soon to draw to a close. Supplies of the unperforated stamps of all the values, except the 10, 20, and 40 c., have been sent to Paris, and have been received thence on letters; and we have also seen some unperforated 20 c. on Paris letters, but these latter are, perhaps, chance comers. On the other hand supplies of the perforated 20 c. are now being sent into the provinces to replace the exhausted stock of unperforated.

The Commune has not issued any stamps yet, but there would be nothing unlikely in its doing so, as the following extract from *The Morning Post* of 11th ult. incidentally proves:—

"It appears that all the stamps in the Paris post-office have been removed to Versailles, their value being two millions of francs. The new *employés* in Paris have sent round to the tobacco shops for all that were to be found, and are now, it seems, beginning again to mark off the payment on the letters with a pen."

If the crisis last much longer, the post-office clerks will get tired of penmarking, and the Commune will be obliged to issue, at any rate, a ten-centime stamp.

We have received all the values of the present republican stamps surcharged diagonally, in large black type, B. BALLON, P. E. They are said to have been used in Paris by the *ballon poste expedition*, but we are unable to vouch for the truth of this.

BURMAH.—There appears to be a likelihood of this far-off realm entering the lists of stamp-issuing countries, in which case some novelties in design will probably see the light. *The Standard* of the 8th ult., apropos of the report above mentioned, has the following paragraph:

"Burmah is taking to civilisation with a rush. * * * Stamped papers are about to be introduced, as the king sees in it an excellent way of increasing the royal income, while introducing regularity into his courts of law. The system of law is also to be changed, in order to assimilate it with our own, and postage on correspondence is to be introduced."

If this should meet the eye of any gentleman of essay-fabricating propensities, we hope he will refrain from attempting to turn the information to evil account.

HOW PARIS COMMUNICATED WITH THE PROVINCES DURING THE SIEGE.

THE siege of Paris gave rise to numerous schemes for the establishment of regular communication between the capital and the provinces; and before the eventful period, during which the finest city in Europe was beleaguered by the German armies, passes entirely into the domain of history, we do well to notice the difficulties which the Parisian post-office, more or less, successfully surmounted. These are portrayed in the two following extracts; the first from the tenth edition of an interesting work, entitled *Le Siège de Paris*, by M. Francesque Surcey; a book which has already acquired considerable notoriety. The second from an article which appeared some time back in *Le Figaro*.

I.

It was during this period (October) that the definitive organization of the postal service took place—that service which forwarded our letters by balloon, and brought back to us the replies—too rare, alas! and too brief, by means of carrier-pigeons. The government established a large manufactory of balloons, so as always to have one ready to start whenever the wind might be favourable. At the beginning of the siege, the balloons used to take their flight in the day time, but it was soon perceived that the Prussians, forewarned of the hour of departure, dogged their passage, aiming incendiary fuses at them, or firing balls from long-range rifles. It was then decided to start only at night. It was nearly always in a railway station—either that of the Northern or the Orleans line—that the balloons were inflated and cast off. Those who watched the spectacle will never forget it. In the centre of a vast yard, the half-filled balloon struggles furiously, blown about by gusts of wind; it is made of yellow taffetas, and the bull's-eye lanterns of the locomotives fling a fantastic glare over the route. All around in the shade, men are bustling about, and in a corner, the postmaster-general, M. Rampont, watch in hand, and with an anxious air, seems to be consulting with M. Godard, the aeronaut, with whom he chats in a low voice. It is evident some danger is apprehended; three men are to start: one, a passenger whose name is a mystery. He is enveloped in furs; walks about nervous and pale, and tries to put on a bold face when he finds he is observed. A marine,—he carelessly smokes his pipe, and it is easy to guess that he will jump into the basket with the same resolute heart as he would show in a boarding affair. It's a mere matter of business with him. Thirdly, a post-office *employé*; he is very much occupied; the van containing the printed matter has just entered, and it is he who will carry the precious sacks, and arrange them round the basket. Five little cages arrive, containing 36 pigeons—adorable, black, white, golden;—pigeons with names that speak of victory—*Gladiateur*, *Vermouth*, *Fille-de-l'air*. It is the proprietor himself who brings and stows them in the car.

At the moment of starting it is noticed that none of the travellers have thought about provisions; there is a bustle and a rummaging of hidden stores, and at length three rolls, two cakes of chocolate, and a bottle of wine are found. This delay has had its good side. An aide-de-camp rushes in breathless. "A despatch from the governor." The aeronaut takes it, the basket is fixed, the sacrament is administered. "Let go all." The balloon leaps up with a bound, it bends under the force of the wind, which curbs it with violence. It is a moment of inexpressible emotion; we are all holding our breath, our eyes fixed on that black mass which is tossed about in frightful convulsions. Will it be crushed? No: it rises; and hardly has it risen above the glazed roof of the station than the darkness closes under it, and it is lost in a misty obscurity. "Adieu, adieu," cried the voyagers; and we reply to them, wishing them a good journey, and by shouts of "*Vive la France*."

The pigeons which they take with them soon return to us, that is, if the cold or the rain, the hawk or the Prussian bullet, does not arrest them on their way. Each one brings, tied with three threads to one of its tail feathers, a light tube, in which will be found, rolled up, a little square of paper, of 30 or 40 millimetres ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inch). It is the microscopic reduction obtained by the aid of photography, of an ordinary typographed composition. This little sheet, hardly legible even under a powerful glass, considerably resembles a newspaper of four columns. The one on the left contains only the following words:

SERVICE DES DEPECES PAR PIGEONS VOYAGEURS. *Steenackers à Mercadier, 103, Rue de Grenelle.*

The other three columns contain—those on the back as well as those on the front—the despatches, one after the other, without any blank spaces or interlineations. Some of these despatches are official, others come from private sources. What joy and consolation they have brought us! How many five-franc pieces and golden louis' have been dropped into the hands of the postmen who brought us the long-expected message. And the pigeons,—with what tender respect were

they surrounded! When, by chance, one of them, fatigued, and dripping with rain, took refuge on some cornice, with what an eager eye the quickly-gathered crowd followed its movements! How every hand was stretched towards it, offering it bread or millet to attract it; and what a joyful cry arose when it was seen to resume its flight straight to its cot!

II.

THE immense efforts made by the postal administration to get letters through, in spite of the rigorous and prolonged blockade to which Paris was subjected, deserve to be chronicled; and the following details will possess considerable retrospective interest.

On the 18th of September, 1870, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the last mail train was despatched from Paris by the Western line, and on the following morning the blockade was complete. In twenty-four hours the German armies had bound Paris with an "iron hoop;" and for four months and a half the postal administration put in operation all the resources of artifice and of the spirit of invention, sharpened by necessity, to overcome Prussian vigilance.

The first effort was to utilise the pigeon post. It is of course well known that pigeons are celebrated for their intense regard for their homes, and the certainty of their making their way back from any distance to the spot where they were bred or kept. Hence in all ages they have been employed as letter carriers. In the process of training, short distances are gradually increased to longer, till the trained bird is at last said to be able to complete a journey of four hundred miles in about twelve hours. The old plan was "to write either words or cipher, or some very abbreviated form of communication, on a strip of the thinnest vellum, or other material, and then to wind it firmly but neatly round the scaled part of the pigeon's leg, fastening it with fine sewing silk." But microscopic photography has recently given immense facility to the concentration of messages; and it is said that "three thousand five hundred despatches, each of twenty words—seventy thousand words in all—can be easily carried by a single pigeon." The microscopic message is carefully rolled

up, and securely fastened to the centre feather of the pigeon's tail, which remains stationary though the bird is in flight; so that the message is not likely to slip from its place.

Happily, some days before the investment, the Prefect of the North and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Lille had conceived the happy idea of sending to Paris 900 pigeons belonging to the "Sociétés Colombophiles" of Roubaix and Tourcoing.

Every one was aware that the carrier pigeons, having their home at Paris, were taken out in balloons and set at liberty in the provinces, whence they brought news. But what was carefully concealed, was the service the other way,—which was performed by Flemish pigeons, set at liberty in the Jardin des Plantes, where they had been confined, and which, two or three hours afterwards, found their way back to their homes at Roubaix or Tourcoing.

This special service was reserved for state despatches that had to be sent off when the wind was unfavourable for aërostation, as the balloons always sufficed to convey the whole of the correspondence—to use the picturesque expression of the post-office agents—born at Paris during the existence of the siege.

The success of the pigeon post did not, however, equal expectations. The return letters presented many difficulties. Of about two hundred pigeons taken out by balloons (ninety-nine since the commencement of December) seventy-three only ever came back to the cots; out of this number also five had no despatches at all, three brought the celebrated apocryphal messages of the Prussians, and ten simply conveyed news of the descent of the balloons that had brought them out. The Germans, of course, did their best to hinder this plan of communication with the outer world; and with this view employed numbers of trained hawks [?] which were set loose and flown at post pigeons. The swifter flight of the pigeon, and the fact that it flies at a very considerable height, led many to conclude that the hawks would not do much harm, but whether this was the case or not, from some cause or other, very few of the fea-

thered messengers returned. No doubt the season of the year had much to do with it. One correspondent stated that "the birds often refused to fly late in the afternoon; and at this time of the year they are unwilling to travel, especially against the wind."

In view of so very meagre a result, the post-office fell back upon the old system of foot messengers. From the 23rd September attempts were made to conceal beneath trusses of straw or hay, in gardeners' and market-carts, letters addressed to the departments; but not one of these conveyances was allowed to pass. The foot messengers were a trifle less unsuccessful. From the 20th September to the 30th October, the very last day that one was sent, eighty-five messengers were despatched on postal service. Out of this number nine were made prisoners, one was arrested and afterwards set at liberty, one disappeared, one arrived without despatches at Tours, which place was reached likewise by one of the nine prisoners who managed to escape: finally, five were enabled to deliver their letters, and out of that number two even succeeded in bringing letters back. All the others, after essaying in vain every spot in the neighbourhood of Paris, and trying every point of the compass, were compelled to fall back from the cordon of sentries who intercepted their passage. Truly the gaolers had taken their measures well; and so absolute an investment over an area so vast is calculated to astonish those who have the slightest notion of military science.

Recourse had then to be had to other means. There was one track which commended itself early, and as a matter of course—the Seine. It was tempting to think that the peaceful current of the river might bring news in the very teeth of the Prussians. But an enemy who had mounted cannon on carriages jointed like the tube of a telescope, to fire at balloons—who had trained hawks and other birds of prey to bring down carrier pigeons—was not likely to neglect to look after navigable streams; and, in truth, the river was barred with nets.

It seemed at last that, in spite of every good intention, the postal service must be paralysed. M. Rampont, notwithstanding

his zeal as a neophyte; Messrs. Bechet and Besnier, the directors, notwithstanding their profound knowledge of the service, could not conceal their messages from the surveillance of the German Argus.

On the 6th of December a contract was made with Messrs. Venoven, Delort, and Robert, for the transport to Paris in hollow floating balls of photographed despatches. Great hopes were raised. The provincial delegation had even prepared by the end of December a decree fixing the bases of this mode of correspondence. But the messenger-spheres were waited for in vain—they never arrived. Another inventor proposed to substitute in their stead old corks, similar in character to those which are constantly floating on the Seine. We believe, without affirming it, that these means were never tried, although they offered some chance of success. It is just possible that the enemy might have disdained to pick up such flotsam and jetsam—waifs and strays of such common occurrence.

The mind of two millions of men was in a state of labour. Just in the same way as *ballons montés* had taken the place of *ballons libres*, an idea was set on foot of replacing buoys by a submarine boat. There were great material difficulties in the way, owing to the bed of the river being encumbered with the *débris* of blown up bridges. Still these difficulties, added to many others, did not deter an inventor, M. Delente, whose projects were favourably received by the post-office authorities.

M. Delente started with his plunging apparatus on the 14th January, by the *aérostat-post* "Vaucanson." Nothing has been heard of him from that date to this. The armistice, which rendered his further efforts useless, is, perhaps, the main cause of his non-appearance.

"We had," writes one of the besieged, "passed through the air; we had endeavoured to pass over ground, over water, and under water; we were now going to try and burrow under ground. Messengers were found willing to attempt a passage through the catacombs. Alas! the fatality, the old fatality, awaited us and met us here as it had done elsewhere. Not a man got through;

and one died a horrible death, imprisoned in the mud."

All attempts were not yet over. Man having failed, they determined to try animals. After the bird, the quadruped. A certain M. Hurel undertook to send back into Paris several ox-drovers' dogs, which are accustomed to find their way home from long distances.

He started with five dogs, on the 13th January, in the *aérostat* "Général Faidherbe." The owners of the dogs were to receive two hundred francs for each despatch brought in. Need we say that the money was never claimed? It is presumed that the Prussians, or the *Francs-Tireurs*, or perhaps the *Mobiles*, transformed the poor post-dogs into salt-marsh mutton.

A few days later, the armistice was signed, and the besieged were enabled to send off their letters—open to the conqueror's inspection, and on payment of a duty of ten francs per kilogramme.

SOME MORE SPANISH STAMPS.

AN esteemed correspondent, to whose diligence we have occasion to make frequent reference—Senor Don Pardo de Figueroa—has discovered a postage stamp of far greater antiquity than any yet known, if we except only the Madrid mark described in our last. He thus refers to his discovery in an article published in a recent number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, which we transcribe with his permission.

"I have just found among a bundle of old papers an envelope containing an official order, dated from Seville the 15th January, 1809, signed by the president of the Court of Justice, and addressed to Messieurs the Prior and Consuls of the tribunal of commerce at Cadiz. This letter bears as mark of prepayment an oval black stamp with the royal arms, like the annexed design. It is the oldest known mark of prepayment in Spain. It was created pursuant to a royal decree of the 7th December, 1716, which stipulates that the

secretaries to the crown, the tribunals, &c., &c., will have the privilege of apposing on the letters addressed to the other authorities a seal, impressed in ink, bearing the royal arms of Castile and Leon, which will pass them free.

By the general regulations of the post (8th June, 1794), section xix., chapter x., notice is given that the employment of the seal struck in black, bearing the arms of Castile and Leon, permitted to the persons and tribunals mentioned in the royal decree of 7th December, 1716, is only authorised for letters concerning public business, and not for private affairs.

The ordinary letters of that period were prepaid at the post-office. The *employés* struck the word *FRANCO* on these letters, and made a Saint Andrew's cross with his pen over the address.

Another postage stamp, if we may so term it, has been kindly forwarded to us by Senor Pardo de Figueroa. It consists of the letters "P" in an oval, and is hand-struck in black. It belongs to the end of the eighteenth century, and the letters above given form the abbreviation of the word *PARTE*, that is to say, "despatch;" or rather, as the Spanish dictionary has it, "the post (or correspondence) sent by the king or prince to his court, when he is absent from the capital." When the king lived at the Escorial, or at Aranjuez, this stamp was impressed on the despatches sent from the royal house to the ministers at Madrid.

Whilst we are writing under this head we may as well refer to another "habilitado" stamp, chronicled by M. Moens in his 93rd number. It is printed in blue, and is found on the 50 mil. d'esco. bistre, and on another dark brown stamp. Up to the present time we have not been able to learn, nor has M. Moens, in what province it was used.



MONSIEUR P. MAHR.—Our readers will, we are sure, be glad to learn that the editor of *Le Timbrophile* is in good health, and has escaped *perforation*. During the siege he performed his duty as a national guard, and took his share of the night watches on the ramparts. He pur-
poses shortly resuming the publication of his journal.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS

The Philadelphia Monthly. Philadelphia, United States.

THIS paper, of which the seventh number is before us, has rather the look of an amateur publication, but it certainly ought to enlighten its readers, for if not edited by any "bright particular stars" in the American firmament of talent, it at least numbers amongst its contributors three planets of the first order,—“Jupiter,” “Saturn,” and “Mars.”

The philatelic department is under the direction of the second of these luminaries, but we are bound to admit that in the half-dozen lines which represent the *Monthly's* contribution to philatelic lore, we do not observe any saturnine remarks; and when we discover “Mars” looking after “Our Puzzler,” we find it difficult to explain the adoption of such astronomical *noms de plume* by the writers in our Philadelphian contemporary.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHY IS A SOLITARY LETTER LIKE A DEBT? Because it's a loan.

AN ONEROUS PRIVILEGE.—Although the mails (and especially those between 18 and 35 years of age) are not allowed to leave Paris, the national guards have been authorised to post guns on the ramparts.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us a letter, originally addressed to him “Poste Restante, Angers,” which he has received back through the post endorsed, “Returned on account of the approach of the enemy.”

A CURIOUS INVENTION.—We were lately shown a French-made envelope with a little string running just inside the upper edge, and of which the end protruded; on taking hold of this end and giving a gentle pull the envelope is ripped or rather slit open along the edge. By this mode of opening, all danger of destroying the envelope to get at the letter, or of injuring the letter itself, is done away with. The string is secured under the edge of the flap at each end by two little points of wax.

HOW “THE TIMES” WAS SENT TO PARIS.—Attempts to establish a ready communication between the beleaguered inhabitants of Paris and their relatives and friends beyond the German lines, have given rise to many contrivances which are not unlikely to make a new era in the history both of aeronautics and photography. Among them may be mentioned the ingenious device by which the matter of two whole pages of *The Times* has been transmitted from London to Paris. This has been accomplished by photography. Those pages of the paper which contained communications to relatives in Paris, were photographed with great care by the London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company on pieces of thin and almost transparent paper, about an inch and

a half in length, by an inch in width. On these impressions there could be seen by the naked eye only two legible words, “*The Times*,” and six narrow brown bands representing the six columns of printed matter forming a page of the newspaper. Under the microscope, however, the brown spaces become legible, and every line of the newspaper was found to have been distinctly copied, and with the greatest clearness. The photographs were sent to Bordeaux for transmission thence by carrier pigeon to Paris. When received there they were magnified, by the aid of the magic lantern, to a large size, and thrown upon a screen. A staff of clerks immediately transcribed the messages and sent them off to the places indicated by the advertisers. The success of this experiment gives rise to the hope that the new art of compressing printed matter into a small compass will not stop here.—*The Times*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OPINIONS OF MR. TITUS B. QUICK, OF NEWFORD, MASS.

To the Editor of “THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.”

SUR.—There is a tide in the affairs of men, as your playwright, Mr. Shakspeare says, which, taken in the flood, leads on to bankruptcy, and it strikes the riter of these few lines that stamp kollektin is a shootin the stream. I heve only resently enlisted as a subscriber to yure valuable jurnal, and though I dont want to make eny individuous comparisons, there air sum contribewtors to it as goes to extreems. I'm not above respekting a stamp writer, but I reckon some of em makes a good deal too mutch of their kulling. I konsider myself a kollektur, but unanimously refuse to be called a flatelist—I leave that name to the enlitened persons as goes wild over perferations and such like.

Over here in Ameriky we hev just enuf common sense to steer clere of the absurdities you air sweetest on. We air not, it is trew, altogether without fault; espeshully in the matter of bunkum, as you frekwently and playfully call it, but as a citizen of the United States, I'm not ekwal to believin in all the varieties you innocently katalogue, and I rayther guess if there was fewer varieties, there wood be more kollektors.

Speekin of myself brings to mind what I was a goin to say when I sat down to rite you. I've alwis been remarkable in the villidge of Newford, Mass., for tryin to find out the reeson of things—cawsality, the frenologist calls it. There's a well in my father's garden, and I used to spend hours leanin over the edge, mewsing and throwin stones into it in a flosozic manner, but I never cood make out how deep the water was, until one day I got to the bottom of it by a lucky chanse. My father thrashed me for going so far to slake my thirst for knowlege, but the passion for gettin to the bottom of things has stuck to me all through life; and perhaps its through that that I'm not so high up in the ladder as I ought to be. However, let me not be autobiograficul, as the poet says. P.S.—The foregoin will serve to explain how I came to think over the causes of varieties.

My idea is jest this. Yew Englanders air a slow set in matters of bisniss. Yew don't go into the thing hartily; you aint to be put in the same catalog with us; you've forgotten the way to go ahed; and so when yuve done yer work, yuve too mutch energy left for play; the consikwence is, yew slave away at yur play insted of enjoyin yurselves in an unsosfisticated manner. Some years ago yew hit on stamp kollektin, flateletisin as yew call it now, and not content to pursoo the hobby in a

quiet way, you must needs ride it to deth. You look at yer stamps imaginin varieties until you get haf blind over them, and you call that amusement—why one'd think you were Germans. And then you can't call it a persoot or a pastime, but you must needs christen it a sience, and hunt through the dictshunary to find a hard word for it. Now, don't yew think, Mr. Editor, it ud be more sensible to let all these crack terms slide, and let the crack varieties go with em?

I daresay you'll answer, that to be lodgical and-setera, one ought to study the stamps through all their fazes, but when I amuse myself I want to fling lodgic to the dogs (agin quoting from your respekted friend Shakspeer). Stamp collectin is like whittlin a thing to ease the mind and trankilise the feelins. What sensible man ud think of spilin his whittle by spekulashuns as to the grain of the wood? Do yew see the drift?

When I've got a few minits to spare, I takes down my kolleckschun, which I may as well tell yew is a book built after my own plans, and I settles down to a quiet half hour's pleasure, in arrangin my new stamps in my own manner. I've got a catalog jest to show me what not to kollect, and with the help of that I can easily get my stamps into line. I never looks at their backs unless to see if there's enuf gum left to stik them on to the book with, and I never xamines the paper excep to find out where it looks weak, or there's some appearens of a hole; yet I reckon my book's worth lookin at, and I know it pleezes me.

Now yew Uropean kollektors, yure alwis uneesy for fear yew havent got all the varieties. Its painful to hear how yew go on over trifles. Yew strain every nerve to make the passtime a punishment for them as tries it, and if yew do drive people off, its yure own fault.

I guess I'll stop: if I rite any more yew won't put it in; and if I dont mistake, my uncompermissing frankness has sumwhat riled yew as it is. However, let's be frends. You'll hear from me again when I hev anything disagreeable to say; until which

I remane,

Yure obedient Sirvant,

TITUS B. QUICK.

[We insert the above letter simply in the hope that our readers may derive as much amusement from its perusal as we have ourselves. The arguments are not worth the trouble of refuting, and Mr. Quick need not fear that he has offended us by advancing them. We merely wish him a little more—discrimination.—ED.]

CAUTION TO POSTAGE-STAMP DEALERS & COLLECTORS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—It having come to the notice of the undersigned, that the postage stamps of the South African Republic are sold on the Continent and in England, below facial value, and in fancy colours, without the authority or sanction of the government, the public are hereby warned not to purchase any stamps of the Transvaal or South African Republic, unless they are forwarded by the undersigned or his agents direct from here; and unless issued in the undermentioned values and colours, being those authorized by this government.

1st issue, 1869; Handstamped Envelopes.

1.—Large single-lined circle, enclosing inscription, POTCHEFSTROOM, Z.A.R., G.P.K. 1869. Black impression.

2.—Small single-lined circle, enclosing inscription, POTCHEFSTROOM, Z.A.R. ZUID AFRIKA 6 PENCE, '69.

2nd issue, May 1, 1870. Adhesive Stamps.

Arms of Republic in oval shield, surmounted by eagle; value on margin on both sides, POSTZEGEL above; Z. AFR. REPUBLIC below; motto, EENDRAGT MAAKT MAGT. on a ribbon below the coat of arms. Col. imp., rect., rouletted and imperf.

One (een) shilling, green; six (zes) pence, blue; one (een) penny, red.

3rd issue, October 1, 1870.

Design as above. Col. imp., rect. rouletted.

One (een) penny, black.

4th issue, March 1, 1871.

Design as above, but with improved eagle and broader ribbon. Col. imp., rouletted and imperf.

Three (drie) pence, violet.

FRED. JEPPE,

Postmaster general of the Republic.

General Post-office, Potchefstroom,
South African Republic.

February 15, 1871.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOHN P. C., Falmouth.—The Bolivian stamps you describe are commercial ones, and have been known for some time past.

F. C., Saxmundham.—We are sorry we cannot find room for the article on "Cap of Liberty" stamps.—No genuine Costa Rica exist with a cap of liberty design.

B. T. N., Torquay.—The Cuban stamps are now used in the Philippine Islands. Probably the Baden, Wurttemberg, and Bavarian stamps will give place to an imperial issue next year.

Rev. R. B. E., Birmingham.—We inserted your communication respecting the halfpenny wrapper, and must acknowledge that, together with our correspondent, J. C., we were in error as to the motive for the issue of the new and undated variety.

C. O. W., Uttoxeter.—Of the halfpenny adhesives, the vertical row on the right hand side of the sheet are the only ones which have the outward edge (i.e., the edge next the border) imperforate, in consequence, no doubt, of the manner in which the perforating machine is arranged.—With reference to the halfpenny wrapper, we beg to thank you for your correction, and to refer you to our reply to our correspondent, R. B. E.

M. S. C., Scorton.—The Oppen's album, edited by Dr. Viner is a good one, and the catalogue is reliable.—There is a place in it for the Mulready envelope represented on our frontispiece, but you must of course fold the envelope.—"Essay" means a stamp submitted for the approval of the postal authorities of any country, but not issued.—Yes, send stamps for the remaining numbers.—Our publishers still have some bound volumes for 1870 on hand.

G. W. B., M.—I. We see no cause to doubt the Greek 5 lept.—II. also seems genuine, but III. and IV. look suspicious. We have known the lilac-grey Spanish 2 c. of 1860 for a long time, but have never had proof of its official origin, and should not like to accept it without such proof. We have some recollection also of having seen the Nevis which may be an unperforated proof.—V. to XII. we notice in our article on new stamps.—We hardly think the small 4 sk. Danish (XIII.) is rouletted; the 16 sk. (XIV.) has the appearance of being so, but we are inclined to doubt that it is.—XV. and XVI., both belong to the 1862 issue.—Accept our best thanks for numbers 17 and 18.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Belgium.

IN matters postal the Belgian authorities have always moved slowly. The coming stamps have generally cast their shadows a long way before; years have elapsed between the publication of decrees authorising changes in the type and their execution; and some stamps, of which supplies have been struck off, have never seen the light. We find this strange hesitation has characterised the Belgian post-office from the beginning. In 1841 the department sent over to this country an envoy—Monsieur L. Bronne—charged to examine and report on the cheap postage system which had just before been established. What may have been his verdict, history, in the shape of M. Moens, to whom philatelists are almost exclusively indebted for their knowledge of the Belgian stamps, saith not; at any rate it was not until six years afterwards, that the authorities decided on following in the wake of England, and even then they could not summon up the necessary courage to give immediate force to their decision.

By a law dated the 24th December, 1847, the emission of postage stamps was authorised, but it required another enactment, dated the 22nd April, 1849, to bring the system of prepayment into actual use, and the employment of stamps did not commence until the 1st of July following.

On that day the first series was issued, consisting of two stamps:

10 centimes brown

20 „ dark blue

both showing a three-quarter face bust of the then king Leopold I., in military uniform. The portrait is finely engraved on steel, and presents a very fair resemblance to the wise old monarch. The design is of the simplest, and is open to the objection that the numerals of value are not large enough. On the 20 c., to the left of the king, is a kind of scroll ornament, which is not found in the 10 c., though a close examination of the ground in this latter value will show faint

traces of a similar device. Both stamps possess a watermark, formed of two L's interlaced; and M. Berger-Levrault states that the letters are sometimes found separated by horizontal and vertical lines, which I understand to mean, that the monogram is framed in.

It is extremely difficult to meet with really clean used copies either of this or of the succeeding series, as they all bear the impress of a very heavy handstamp, which remained in use until 1864, when the postmark now in use was adopted; and as unused specimens of the first pair of stamps are almost unattainable, collectors have to content themselves in general with poor representatives of a really interesting design. Reprints, however, can be bought at from five to six shillings a-piece, and, as the originals are not to be had, and used specimens are so poor, this seems to me a case in which collectors may fairly have recourse to "posthumous" impressions. Besides the reprints, there are also essays, or rather proofs, printed in black on white, and also, if I mistake not, in black on yellow; but these are mere fantastic productions, which belong to the superfluous class.

The two stamps issued in 1849, were at that time quite sufficient for a postal system into which conventions with foreign countries scarcely entered. The ten-centime stamp prepaid the postage on single-weight letters over a distance of 30 kilometres, and the 20 centimes covered the postage on superior distances. Whilst, however, these stamps were being fabricated, namely, on the 29th April, 1849, a treaty was signed with France, regulating the postage between the two countries, on the basis of a forty-centime rate for single-weight letters, and this treaty necessitated the emission of a 40 centime stamp. Instead of continuing the series, which had been already commenced, the government gave orders for the preparation of a new type, and the stamp which bore it made its appearance on the 18th October, 1849. The French stamp of the same value, it may be here remarked, was issued in the following December.

The new Belgian type was evidently more favourably regarded by the administration

than its predecessor, for we find the latter definitively suppressed in 1850, after a currency of hardly more than a twelvemonth. New 10 c. and 20 c. stamps appeared on the 10th August of that year, identical in design with the 40 c., and forming with it a new series.

10 centime sepia.
20 „ prussian blue.
40 „ carmine-rose.

All three of these stamps bore the LL watermark, and were printed at first on thick paper, like the first series; afterwards they appeared on a thinner paper. The design was of at least ordinary merit, and to be fairly judged, the earlier stamps must be examined; later on, after years of wear, it naturally deteriorated.

In 1861, a fresh impression took place on unwatermarked paper, on the occasion of the issue of a one-centime stamp for journals. Berger-Levrault gives the date of the issue of the three higher values as the 1st March, and that of the one cent as the 1st June. With regard to the latter, he is in accord with Mons. N. Roudot, who also gives the date of the royal decree authorising its emission—the 23rd March, 1861.

The new edition was formed as follows:—

1 centime dark green, blue green.
10 „ sepia, light brown.
20 „ light blue, dark blue.
40 „ carmine, vermilion.

The one-centime stamp was issued for the express purpose of prepaying journals and printed matter, but soon after its emission many persons began to use it for their letters. Some of those who did so were actuated by no malicious intention, but others gave the one-centime stamp a preference over the others for the purpose of giving the postal *employés* more work, and hence it happened that the sorters had sometimes to impress thirty or forty postmarks on a single letter. The administration, however, soon put a stop to these tricks, by issuing a notice restricting the employment of this stamp to printed matter, and declaring that it would tax, as unpaid, any letter which should thereafter bear it. This law remains in force with regard to the current newspaper stamps.

Perforation was adopted only in 1863.

The system had then been in use nine years in England, and for about the same period in France; but the Belgian administration, with the effects of the invention before their eyes, took no steps to employ it, and at length Messrs. Gouweloos frères, of Brussels, struck by the negligence of the government, proposed to it to construct a perforating machine,* but the minister required time for reflection. MM. Gouweloos, fearing that the minister might take years to come to a decision, determined, meanwhile, to give notice to the public that they were ready to perforate the stamps at a charge of five centimes per sheet; and for this small outlay it would have enjoyed the benefit of perforation before it was officially adopted. This effort of private enterprise, however, woke up the government, which hastened to name a committee, which, in its turn (following an inevitable law), named a sub-committee. The sub-committee went in a body to the manufacturers, for the purpose of examining the proposed machine. One of the engineers flung a disdainful glance at it, and did not hesitate to put his veto on it, because, according to him, it was not worthy of the country; he wanted something big. The machine being only a trifle larger than a sewing machine, could not suit his elevated views, and, besides, 2400 francs (£96) was the price asked for it. The remaining members of the committee sustained their chief's veto, and the proposal to purchase was rejected.

The public, however, which had got wind of the innovation, seeing it postponed to the Greek calends, clamoured for it all the more, and the prudent government, to get out of the difficulty, instead of buying a machine, entered into a contract with MM. Gouweloos for the perforation of a certain number of sheets of stamps, which was not to fall below five hundred per day. It also agreed to acquire the proposed machine, if, by its success, the fallibility of the committee should be proved. Perforation, therefore, was officially adopted, and put in practice on the 11th April, 1863.

* I am here quoting almost word for word from an interesting article, entitled *De la Pique des Timbres en Belgique*, published in No. 50 of *Le Timbre-Poste*.

All the stamps of the existing series were then perforated, and the same shades of the 10, 20, and 40 c. exist as in the 1861 edition. The one centime, however, shows greater variation; it is found in no less than four shades, namely,

green.
dark green.
light „
olive „

So extensively was this value used, and so constantly were the plates employed to renew the stock, that they soon wore down, the finer lines of the design disappeared, and the last impressions show but slight resemblance to the type in its pristine state. Another proof of the extent to which the plates were used, is found in the damage which the *cliché* in the upper left-hand corner sustained; thereby the letters in CENTIME were battered and rendered illegible, and it became necessary to retouch or recut the letters CENT. This job being roughly performed, they are very unshapely, and encroach on the border; the N in UN also appears to have been touched up and spoilt. In the other stamps the design shows less deterioration, but, in all, it is easy to recognise the effects of fourteen years' wear, and the government at length decided on the issue of a new series.

Generally speaking, postal administrations patronise one particular engraver of their choice; in his ateliers its designs are mysteriously worked out, and it is only when the stamps are on the point of appearing, that the public are informed that a change in the type is contemplated. In this instance, however, the Belgian post-office decided to offer a prize for the best design, and to open the competition to all the world. At the beginning of the year 1864, formal notice was given of the opening of the competition, the length and breadth of the stamps was prescribed, and it was also stipulated that the portrait should be in a circle, the value in the lower corner in figures, and that the inscription should consist of the words BELGIQUE above, and POSTE below; lastly, a prize of 5000 francs (£200) was to be awarded to the successful competitor. The 1st July, 1864, was fixed as the last day for the deposit of the dies, and before it arrived

eleven artists had submitted their conceptions to the Minister of Public Works.

It is not necessary to describe their productions—are they not chronicled in the pages of *Le Timbre-Poste*? Moreover, they are known to us simply as essays. Not one of the proposed designs was accepted, and an examination of the engravings reproduced in the Brussels journal proves that only one of them was in any degree worthy of acceptance. M. Moens, speculating on the failure of the “*concours*,” argues that men of first-rate ability will not enter into such competitions, as, if they do not win the prize, they lose entirely the result of months of labour, and are wounded in their *amour propre* by the success of some, perhaps, inferior artist.

The government, finding that no good came of the competition, addressed themselves to the well-known firm of De La Rue & Co., and ordered of them the “head” stamps of the 1855 series, namely,

10 centimes grey.
20 „ blue.
30 „ brown.
40 „ carmine.
1 franc lilac.

Of these the 30 c. and 1 franc were the first to appear, and the first sheets of the 30 c. were only perforated down the sides—such was the haste with which they were got ready. These half-perforated stamps are now become rare.

(To be continued.)

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

April 20.*

The Philatelist.—The last two numbers are fully up to the usual standard, and contain very interesting reading. “The Envelope Stamps of Great Britain” form the subject of a lucid article, from the pen of the well-known “Parisian Collector,” in the March number, and the same writer is represented in the April number by a further instalment of “The Envelopes of Germany.” The “Spud Papers” run through both numbers, and in the second the author favours us with an explanation of the grotesque, but, as we must now admit, appropriate explanation of the

* Crowded out of last number.

title. These papers are accompanied by specimens of the forged stamps described; in the March number the dangerous Liberian counterfeit, with the stereotyped "Monrowa" postmark is given; in the April number the coarser imitation of the current Bolivian, and the very deceptive copy of the Servian, are given. We hope all collectors will read these papers; they will do more to open the eyes of the philatelic public to the necessity of circumspection in buying, than all the written descriptions in the world, unaccompanied by copies of the forgeries themselves.

In the course of his comments on a prize essay on the advantage of rejecting varieties, the editor good-naturedly defends his frequent use of the term "Pendragonite," on the ground, that "were all words more than fifty times uttered or printed to be expelled from the language, he would soon be rather hard up for means of expressing his thoughts."

Le Timbre-Poste.—An interesting article on the Peruvian stamps runs through the last two numbers, and our translation thereof is the best proof we could give of our appreciation of it. M. Moens has sometimes been the subject of covert sarcasm on account of his so frequently rendering official documents *verbatim et literatim*, but, for our own part, we consider he is entitled to the thanks of the community for the care he takes to register those departmental acts which affect stamps; and we, in common, doubtless, with many of our readers, are interested in the perusal of decrees whereby the emission of little-known series has been authorised. In this instance, the solemn style of the regulations connected with the printing of the Peruvian is most amusing. The custody of the Lecocq machine is made the subject of twenty different precautions; a perfect round of formalities are ordered to be gone through whenever a supply of stamps is printed off, and, altogether, it is evident that the authors of the decree felt and rose to the dignity of the occasion.

By the documents which M. Moens transcribed, it is made evident that the sudden withdrawal of the 5 and 10 c. llama, was not due to the effects of an earthquake, but to a change in government, which same change

gave occasion for the issue of the queer locomotive 5 c. stamp now in use, and for the reissue of the old 1 dinero, printed in green.

It is rather humiliating to find that, notwithstanding the spread of collecting, and the means which now exist of obtaining information, so long a period as three years should pass away before the truth respecting the emission of the llama stamps could be discovered. However, better late than never; we now know that the dictator's government (by the way who *was* the dictator?) had the sense to order a series of finely-designed stamps from New York, and that its successor, acting upon a mere legal quibble, has suppressed them, in favour of far inferior types.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine gives two pages to stamps, from one of which we make the following rather interesting extract, illustrative of the trade in New York:

THE STAMP TRADE.—A week's visit to New York among the dealers in postage stamps has convinced us that this traffic is increasing rapidly. In one large establishment, we witnessed a pleasing sight. Seated at a long table were persons of every age, enthusiastically scanning the dealer's stock. Three persons were constantly engaged in assorting and counting the stamps, while a cashier behind a wire-protected desk was busy taking in the fractional currency. Albums of every kind and value lined the shelves; some particularly fine ones retailing for the modest sum of fifty dollars! In the show window front was a huge inverted cornucopia, from whose capacious mouth thousands of postage stamps were protruding. From the crowds entering and leaving this establishment, daily, we should suppose the business unusually profitable. Other dealers, in stores and at the street stands, were crowded with customers, and we left New York strongly and strangely impressed with the encouraging state of this new and infatuating trade, destined to take equal rank, at some day, with the more important branches of trade in this country.

It is to be hoped that as the proprietor of *Mason's Magazine* is now convinced of the growing importance of stamp-collecting in the States, he will take measures to increase the space allotted to his philatelic department.

The American Journal of Philately.—The number before us is a readable one. Among the leading papers may be noticed the continuation of the "History of the United States Post-office," and of the article on "United States Local Stamps." This latter we should like to see published in a separate form on its completion, as it is the

only analytical essay on the subject in existence, and is evidently written by a competent hand. We notice that among other stamps the Winans are described this month, and the design on them is described as a "bottle." It has generally been understood to be a winged shell; but neither shell nor bottle are particularly appropriate as a postage-stamp design, and it would be no waste of time on the part of the writer of the paper in question if he were to hunt up the history of the design, and the stamps themselves. We have seen it stated, though where we cannot now remember, that the Winan stamps were never in use: cannot Mr. J. W. Scott give some information on this point?

Besides the above-mentioned article, there is an interesting bit of light reading, entitled the "Commencement of the Confederate Postal Service," which we hope, later on, to transfer to our own columns. It consists of clippings from newspapers which appeared at the time of the secession, and of official decrees in reference to the service.

Since the foregoing has been in type we have received the March number of the *American Journal of Philately*. It is a readable number, but would have been none the less so had the list of revenue stamps been absent. We are surprised that American collectors, who are so very touchy about varieties and perforation, should fly off at a tangent in pursuit of revenue stamps.

The remaining contents of the number are the continued "History of the United States Post-office," in which the writer treats of money orders, and an amusing article on "The Profits of the Stamp Trade in the United States." It seems that the thorn in the flesh of the "seven persons or firms," who give their principal attention to the business, is the prevalence of small boys who will begin trading in stamps on a capital of from 50 to 75 cents. It is true there is a quick succession of dealers: "the good boys get advanced in their situations, and then give up the business for want of time;" whilst the bad ones "are compelled to relinquish their evil ways by their parents or employers;" but the worst of it is that others rise up in their places. The breed of

small boys is ineradicable; if it ever should be stamped out, the United States will cease to prosper.

But there are other evils in the way of the seven stamp dealers of the United States, or rather *two*; for of the seven only five are now in business, and of the five only two "have over ten thousand dollars invested in the business." These two find there are many difficulties in the way of selling stamps cheap. When they buy they never pay less than 25 per cent. over the facial value for their stamps, and often 50 to 100 per cent., and the exchange and freight is "about one thousand per cent. more than the dry-goods dealer pays." Moreover, they have to purchase so many varieties that the outlay is large and constant. The article finishes with the following lamentation:

It is a safe calculation to say that it takes an hour to sell one dollar's worth of stamps; and as a salesman cannot wait on and answer the questions of more than three at once, a large number of hands have to be employed, and large stores occupied to accommodate the customers, and as these have to be in good locations, one thousand (dols.) per year is about the lowest rent paid, some paying double that figure.

We think if anyone will consider the above, they will come to the conclusion that stamp dealers do not make such large profits after all, and will join with us in the opinion that, taken altogether, considering the difficulty of obtaining stock, and the class of people who disgrace the business, and are able to make as good a show in the country as the richest dealers, that it is the most tiresome and poorest-paying business in which a man can invest his money.

The delicate hints thus freely thrown out as to the large extent of *some* stamp-dealers' stores are quite amusing. Is it to be wondered at, if we dream of palatial edifices crammed with stamps from floor to garret, a crowd of young gentlemen in irreproachable costume, employed in gracefully showing off the stock, whilst the proprietor walks about with his hands in his pocket, wearily declaiming that "it's the most tiresome, poorest-paying business" under the sun, and he hopes to goodness no one will be stupid enough to set up in opposition to him!

El Averiguador.—Our Madrid contemporary, in the current number, increases the space allotted to the discussion of matters connected with postage stamps. One writer, Senor Rentero, gives the derivation of the word *philately*, and also minutely describes some "habilitado" stamps in his possession.

In another part of the number is found a "Philatelic Chronicle," in which the emission of the new Helsingfors stamp is referred to, and its inscriptions given. Following this comes a paragraph on false stamps, referring to certain forgeries of the Y $\frac{1}{4}$ stamps; but we regret our slight knowledge of Spanish will not permit us to hope to be able accurately to render the information contained therein.

In the two preceding numbers are found notes from the pen of Senor Pardo de Figueroa, on the 12 cuartos, 1857, respecting which he inquires if it ever was really in use, and if any reader can produce a copy, and also on the 2 cuartos of 1854,* of which specimens are said to have been found printed on the loop-watermarked paper of the 1855 series. The learned writer pertinently asks how such an *erreur d'impression* could possibly occur. Another writer discusses the French equivalents for watermark—*filigranne* and *filigrane*—with a view to decide which is really the more important. Altogether there is an earnest air about the contributions to this journal; and though philately is now in its infancy in Spain, it will rapidly mature if only it continues to be studied in the same spirit as it is at present.

The American Stamp Mercury.—The copy before us consists of three single *Mercuries* rolled into one, and is correspondingly bulky. It is principally composed of reprints; but there is one article in it,—the "Hints on Collection," by Mr. Tiffany, reproduced in the present number,—which, after a pretty long acquaintance with American periodicals, we have no hesitation in declaring to be the best-written paper which has ever appeared in an American stamp journal. It is distinguished by an entire absence of that inflated style which generally characterises the writings of philatelists over the water; and, coupled with this, there is such clearness of expression, and attention to grammatical rules, as to render the article pleasant reading, even to those who may differ from the opinions it enunciates.

* [Copies of the 2 cuartos of 1854, on the loop-watermarked paper of the 1855 series, exist in the collections of Baron A. de R.—and of Mr Philbrick.—Ed.]

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SARAWAK.—In further reference to our last month's chronicle, we append an illustration of the new Sarawakian type. We need only repeat that the impression is in brown on yellow paper.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

—We noticed in our last the appearance of the 2, 10, and 20 centimes, with inverted ground. We have since received information, from various correspondents, that this variety is found also in the other values, and hence an entire "inverted" set exists. It appears that a new series of adhesives has already been prepared for these provinces, and they are described as follows by our Brighton contemporary:

"They are rectangular, rouletted, colour on white. A frame broken at each angle by small squares, placed lozengewise, and containing Prussian eagles, bears ELSSASS on the left, UND at top, LOTHRINGEN on the right, and the value, in centimes, at bottom. The upper portion of the frame is broken by a laurelled circle enclosing the imperial crown. The centre holds a portrait of the emperor, King William. The colours are dull. Lorraine is officially defunct; letters thence being postmarked LOTHRINGEN."

We know not whether our contemporary has certain intelligence that the above described design is the adopted one; we are almost inclined to think that they are only a projected set, seeing that, according to our information, it is in contemplation to issue a series of the prosaic "numeral of value" type for the German empire. If the German authorities put the emperor's portrait on the special set for the conquered provinces, it can only be with intent to familiarise the inhabitants with their new ruler's features. However, as the official Strasburg journal of the 14th April last contained a request to the Alsatians and Lorrainers to use up their French stamps as quickly as possible, as new ones were to be issued on the 1st May, we

presume it will not be long before the accepted types are issued, and our doubts set at rest.*

GERMAN EMPIRE.—In continuation of the foregoing remarks we may mention that one of our correspondents states that the new set of stamps for the empire will come into use earlier than had been anticipated; he is informed they will see the light on *July 1st*. Another correspondent, writing from Berlin, sends us rough sketches of two proofs of the new stamps, which he has obtained from a good source. They are almost identical in design with those now current in the North German Confederation, but the legend, in consequence of the change in government, is shortened to *DEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK*. On the groschen stamp there is an imperial crown in the inscribed circle, under the figure of value; but even this symbol is absent from the kreuzer stamp in the sketch before us. A third correspondent, at Carlsruhe, informs us that the 1st July is specified in the official journals as the date of the emission of the new series, and the Carlsruhe government paper adds that therefore no more Baden stamps will be printed. Wurtemberg and Bavaria will, it appears, still keep their own stamps.

FRANCE.—From St. Petersburg a correspondent sends us *perforated*, or rather rouletted specimens of the Bordeaux printed 1, 2, and 10 centimes, which he had received on letters from Lille. These are curiosities in their way, and have probably been rouletted by private persons. M. Moens, however, has been informed by a postal *employé* at Bordeaux, that some postmasters who had in their possession rouletting machines, which they had formerly used to facilitate the separation of money-order forms, receipts, &c., had applied the system to the imperforate Bordeaux stamps. Among others (says the *employé*, in the course of his letter to M. Moens) you will find enclosed a series of perforated stamps, which came from Autun.

Collectors must be on their guard against

forgeries of the perforated republic stamps, Paris-printed issue. We have already had specimens sent us of a brown and a blue. They are very poor imitations, on a clear white paper, and are postmarked with a star-shaped mark, formed of dots, in the centre of which is a numeral;—"16" on the stamps before us. The colours do not resemble those of the originals, and the forgers have made one lithograph serve for the two colours, so that both bear the *same value*, viz., 20 centimes.

The Belgian journal notices a very apocryphal series of field-post cards, for the late French army of the North. Our contemporary expresses the grave doubts he has respecting them, and we can confirm him in his suspicions of them. We have known both officers and men in that army, and none among them have any knowledge of such; moreover, we have seen various notices emanating from the postal officials charged with the direction of the field-post of that army, in which the necessity of indicating the regiment, battalion, and company of the soldiers was insisted on, but there was never any reference to envelopes or cards having been specially prepared for their correspondence. M. Moens refers also to cards having been issued for the use of the armies of the East and the Loire. Respecting that of the East, we cannot speak from personal knowledge, but having been in correspondence with soldiers in the army of the Loire, we know that their letters always came in ordinary closed envelopes, and unstamped; the words *armée* sufficing to free them.

We have had for a long time past in our possession an envelope bearing a kind of unpaid stamp, which we believe to be unique. It consists of the postmark with the value, 30 centimes, in the upper part. The postmark is formed of a double ring. In the upper half is the word *PARIS*, in the lower the name of the post-office, *R. DE CLERY*; in the middle is the date—6^e 8 NOV., 69—and, breaking the inner ring, just below the word *Paris*, is the denomination—30 c.—in thick figures. The uselessness of an unpaid letter stamp incorporated in the postmark is proved from the fact that the postman did not collect the unpaid postage. The letter

* In the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, just to hand, M. Moens states that he has been informed by the Berlin post-office that it is not intended to issue a new series at present.

LEVELEZÉSI LAP.

CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE

Czim

Adresse

was addressed to a northern French town, to which the postage could only be 20 centimes; we therefore cannot think that the "30 c." represents a sum paid by the sender, and the letter itself bore no stamp whatever.

HUNGARY.—The above card has just been issued for use in the Hungarian kingdom, and forms its first postage "stamp." It will be observed that below the portrait of the emperor-king is the royal crown and the Hungarian arms. The stamp itself is in yellow, varying from bright to pale, on a kind of buff paper, and the inscriptions, which are in the two languages, are in black.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—We are now able to



present to our readers the annexed engravings of the three new Hawaiian stamps. The portrait on the one cent is decidedly the most striking and life-like female portrait of all that are found on postage stamps, but we regret that our illustration but imperfectly

represents the original. The Princess Kamamulu was evidently a lady of prepossessing



appearance, who, in her day, must have bewitched the Hawaiian beaux.

NEW GRANADA.—*Antioquia.*—The stamp



depicted in annexed illustration has just been discovered, and forms the second of that value; but whether it is an old or a new emission is unknown. It is printed in rose-carmin on white paper. The other stamps, the 2½, 5, 10,

and 20 c., now arrive on much thicker paper, and the 10 c. is no longer lilac-slate, but reddish violet.



BREV-KORT.

(Paa denne Side skrives kun Adressen.)

Til

RUSSIA.—We subjoin an engraving of the Tver stamp, described last month, and which, like the Longa, has become common. The engraving of the Berdiansk will only be ready for our next number. M. Moens has received a 5

kop. Soummy, vermillion on grey paper.

UNITED STATES.—The new seven-cent stamp is now in use, and it turns out to be a very satisfactory addition to the current series. It presents a likeness, in profile, of a

gentleman whom nature has blessed with a beard of unusual length, whose name we know not, and of whose particular "walk" in American political life we find no indication in the severely simple ornaments

which surround the oval frame. The colour of this fresh comer is a brilliant scarlet. The envelope series has received an addition in the shape of a one cent head of Franklin, of the usual type, and coloured bright blue, like the postage stamp of the same value.

In addition to the one-cent envelope, the 24 c., with effigy of General Scott, and the 30 c., with that of Alexander Hamilton, have made their appearance. The annexed engravings render description unnecessary.

We have only to state that the colours are as follows:

24 c. bright violet on yellow and on white.

30 c. black

The 24 c. is as charming as its adhesive equivalent.

DENMARK.—The following values of the service stamps, of which the type was given in our April number, are now current:—

- 2 sk. bright blue.
4 „ bright carmine.
16 „ green.

They are all perforated, and form together a very pleasing trio.

On the preceding page is the type of the new Danish post cards; but it is difficult to reproduce the beauty of the external Greek border. Altogether, these Danish cards are entitled to take rank as the neatest which have yet appeared. The cards themselves are white, and, being slightly glazed, are superior to those of other countries. The values are—

- 2 sk. blue.
4 „ carmine.

There are also official post cards, identical in design, but inscribed *TJENESTE-BREVKORT* (official correspondence card).

The annexed design is that which appears on the flap of the Danish returned-letter envelopes, and notice of it is due to M. Moens, who gives a translation of the inscriptions printed on the back, which are of the usual class. The stamp and legends are printed in black, the envelopes themselves being white.



PHILIPPINES.—The series of stamps similar to the Cuban series of 1870, has not yet been issued, but it probably will be in the course of the present year, and the values are now known. They are as follows:—

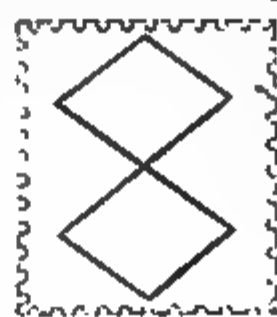
5 cent de escudo	blue.
10 „ „	dark green.
20 „ „	bistre.
40 „ „	bright rose.

They differ from the Cuban only in being undated, the lower scroll being occupied with the denomination of value, *c^o DE ESC^o*, alone. The stamps are perforated, but M. Moens has a 10 centimo variety unperforated.

SPAIN.—It is said that the new series, with effigy of King Amadeus, will make its ap-

pearance on 1st July, and M. Moens refers to a report that a type has been submitted by a Turin engraver. Senor M. P. de Figueroa sends us a clipping from *La Correspondencia*, a Cadiz paper of the 30th March last, in which, in the course of a few remarks on the coming series, it is stated that the bust of the king is extremely well executed, and that the designs have much greater artistic merit than their predecessors.

BAVARIA.—We are indebted to M. Moens



for notice of a new Bavarian watermark, which is found on the current perforated stamps, and consists of two lozenges, one above the other. Probably the adoption of a watermark is due to the difficulty of working the silk thread in stamps which are half separated from each other by the dents of the perforation.

Bavaria now possesses a post card, and one of very simple design. It bears no impressed stamp, but a dotted square indicates where the adhesive is to be affixed; and, with true German practicality, dotted circles are added, wherein the postmark of the receiving and delivering offices, respectively, must be struck. In the upper part of the card are the words *BAYERN—CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE*—following which come the lines for the address; below which, and covering more than a third of the entire space, come six lengthy regulations in connection with the employment of the post card. The impressions are in black, the card itself buff.

WURTEMBERG has likewise issued post cards, value 1 and 3 kr., respectively, bearing the impressed envelope stamp in the colours usual to those values. In a curved line in the upper edge of the card are the words *KÖNIGL WÜRTEMBERGISCHES POSTGEBIET*; then come the national arms, as on the adhesives; and below that, in a straight line, *CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE*. Then come the usual lines for the address, and below, six regulations as on the Bavarian cards, but more concisely worded. The cards are blue, and the inscriptions black. On the reverse are traced a number of fine dotted lines to aid the writer. Besides these cards there are also

money-order envelopes, and money-order post cards. The envelopes are on buff paper, of the values of 4 kr. yellow, 6 kr. blue, 7 kr. green, 9 kr. brown; and the cards are 3 kr. rose, 6 kr. blue, 7 kr. blue, 12 kr. violet, 14 kr. lilac; this latter value being formed of two 7 kr. struck side by side.

GUATEMALA.—The design here represented was drawn in 1867, by M. Hulot, the celebrated Parisian engraver; and the annexed illustration appeared in our number for January, 1868. It now appears, that after a delay of more than three years, the Guatemalan government has employed the type, and issued four values, viz.:—



1 centavo bistre.
5 " brown.
10 " blue.
20 " carmine.

They are printed in colour on white paper, and perforated. Of their genuineness, according to M. Moens, there is no question.

A FEW HINTS ON THE SELECTION OF SPECIMENS AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF A COLLECTION.

BY J. K. TIFFANY.

(Reprinted from "*The American Stamp Mercury*.")

COLLECTIONS of any kind are chiefly valuable in this, that they are in some sort illustrated histories, and as such their comparative value depends largely upon the wisdom of the collector and the arrangement of the specimens. A small collection, where each specimen is a representative of a class, and each class is found represented in its proper order, may tell us much more than many of the largest collections, where, too often, specimens are selected only because of their variety, or the attempt is made to procure everything possible, and everything is thrown together, as it were, without any system. Now, if our stamp-collecting friends, who have so many protests to make about the multiplication of varieties, would adopt this view, there would be less useless discussion as to what should be collected, and without any great

increase in the number, their collections might be made much more valuable; for instead of collecting all their specimens on the same kind of paper, with the same watermark and perforation, they might be induced to adopt some such selections as the following for New Zealand, for example. Of this country we usually find in small collections the six values of the same type, and perhaps two or three varieties of shade of the one penny, threepence, sixpence, and the two colours of the fourpence—all these with the star watermark, and perforated. Now suppose their owners had selected instead the

1d. light red	on blue paper, no watermark or perforation.
2d. blue	" white " " "
6d. brown	" pelure " " "
1s. light green	" white " star " no " "
4d. rose	" " " " " machine " "
4d. yellow	" " " " " " " "
3d. violet	" " " " " roulette " "
1s. dark green	" pelure " " machine " "
1d. dark red	" white " N Z. " " "

—then all the leading varieties of this country would be indicated by its representative, and no addition to the number of specimens made, while the additional study bestowed on making such a selection would eventually be a great gain to the science of philately. Other countries should be represented in the same way, the plan being to indicate not only every type and value issued, but also every mode of perforation, paper, watermark, &c.: such a collection would be as near complete as perhaps it is possible for any of us to get, but would leave much to be inferred. The next step is to get, not only a single representative of each variety, but all the various values of each variety; and could one obtain them all, then nothing would be left to inference.

Such has been the course we have pursued in forming a collection of between five and six thousand specimens. About eleven years since we began by getting every type and value we could; we then added one representative specimen of each watermark and perforation of which we could hear; the collection now being enlarged by the addition of as many representatives of each variety as we can procure. During this time we have had some four albums, and examined a great many others, and perhaps our present ar-

rangement, which is our own adaptation of all the ideas and suggestions we could get, may be of value to others of less experience. We place but one set, or at most two, on a page, giving as many pages to each country as are necessary, and as we employ movable pages, can add to them whenever necessary. Our New Zealand stamps (we use this country as a convenient illustration) are arranged in sets, as we call them, thus:

1st page,	1st line,	blue	paper,	no wmk.,	no perf.
	2nd "	soft white	"	"	"
2nd page,	1st "	hard	"	"	"
	2nd line,	white paper,	various perf.	of above.	
	3rd "	"	"	"	"
3rd page,	1st "	pelure	"	no wmk.,	imperforate.
	2nd "	"	"	"	perforations.
4th page,	1st "	star watermark,	no perforations.		
	2nd "	"	"	"	cont.
5th page,	1st "	"	"	roulette	"
	2nd "	"	"	machine	"
6th page,	1st "	"	"	pelure paper,	no perf.
	2nd "	"	"	"	roulette
	3rd "	"	"	no perforation.	
7th page,	1st "	N. Z.	"	machine & oblique	"
	2nd "	"	"	roulette	"
	3rd "	"	"	machine	"

so that all the specimens upon the page have the same watermark, and those in each line the same perforation. We were surprised when we had made this arrangement to find how much our collection had gained in mere beauty, while we have room enough for many additions to each variety, if they turn up hereafter.

But what we claim as the great merit of our album is the peculiar construction of the several pages, which consist each of two sheets of cardboard of the desired size (eleven inches by fourteen is the size we have adopted), the upper sheet slightly tinted and cut out like the mat of a photograph, and pasted to the under one, which is white, so as to form a contrasted raised border to it, about two inches wide. The name of the country is printed above on this border, and on the sides may be indicated the peculiarities of the stamps on the page. This page is then attached to a narrow strip about half an inch wide, as thick as the two sheets forming the page, with a cloth hinge, much as photograph albums are sometimes made. In these strips are inserted eyelets, through which the cords pass which fasten the pages together. Our pages, so prepared, are strung together in their order in one of Emerson's

patent binders as a cover. By this plan we can add a new page when and where we please with little trouble, and when the album is shut, the edges come close together, keeping out all dust, and preventing any rubbing or compression of the stamps by the opposite pages. When the fancy takes us we can arrange our whole collection anew,—geographically to-day, alphabetically to-morrow, and chronologically when we please.

In order to expose the under side of the stamp to view, show the watermark, &c., we thought at first of mounting the stamps on a hinge, so that they could be raised, but finally decided to cut out a hole of the shape of the stamps, but a little smaller, securing the stamp by gum at the corners only. On the right side of the page we mark the date under each stamp, indicating the watermarks on the reverse side. Our envelopes, when entire, we arrange on similar pages, which are, however, composed of three sheets of cardboard, the upper and lower like those described, but the middle one cut into four bands, with five narrow slips about half an inch wide cut out. The flap of the envelope is slipped under one of these slips, and the bottom of the envelope under the next lower one, which keeps them in place, and makes it easy to remove them, when desired, for examination. By this arrangement we can have three rows on a page.

A FEW NOTES ON THE STAMPS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 55.)

COLOURS.

THESE I have done my best to describe thoroughly in the list given. I have termed the 6d. 1861 purple-brown, after Mr. Taylor; it seems the best term, and is more distinct from the succeeding shades when thus described. There is so much difference in the shades of the 6d., which follow this, that it is difficult to distinguish each *clearly* by name. It will be seen I omit the 6d. blue-green of 1861: I have never met with one meriting the name. In the following list great care has been taken not to encumber it with shades too minutely distinct from each other.

THE LIST OF VARIETIES.

If the reader will turn to p. 176 in your 1869 volume, a rough list will be found of Barbados, on a plan which I have attempted to work out thoroughly in the following list. I believe a catalogue on this principle would be a wonderful success, but the labour in compiling it is excessive. In the list of varieties, no shades are given separately which are not clear and distinct from the others; nothing vexatiously bewildering is given in tints, for I can now see the impossibility of chronicling them clearly. Distinct primary tints are chosen. Where much variation exists, a *v.* denotes "varying;" there are the clear extremes given; and let the collector of varieties take more if he likes, to make intermediate shades, but I shall not again fill up my lists by trying to describe tints which are indescribable, and of which the very catalogue is overwhelming.

In conclusion, the error, No. 17 a., is catalogued, but I never saw it. Have any of your readers a copy?

DESIGN.

Swan swimming, named, various frames: typographed, coloured impressions.

- Types I.** Reeds and sun's rays; solid octagonal frame.
II. Netted background; solid octagonal frame.
III. Netted background; solid oval frame.
IV. Netted background; netted oblong frame.
V. Netted background; solid oblong frame.

SPECIES.

- I.** Im. & Ro. 1857. 1.—Twopence, black-brown on red.
 2.—Sixpence, bronze.
II. 3.—Fourpence, blue.
III. 4.—One shilling, red-brown, pale brown.
IV. 1863. 5.—One penny, black.
V. 6.—Twopence vermilion.
 7.—Fourpence, blue.
 8.—Sixpence, green.
IV. M. 1861. 9.—One penny, rose.
V. 10.—Twopence, blue.
 11.—Fourpence, vermilion.
 12.—Sixpence, purple-brown.
 13.—One shilling, dark green, bright green.
IV. 1862. 14.—One penny, brown-carmine.
V. 1863. 15.—Sixpence, light violet, dark purple-violet.
IV. 1865. 16.—One penny, olive yellow, olive brown.
 17.—Twopence, yellow.
 18.—Fourpence, carmine.
 19.—Sixpence, deep violet, mauve.
 20.—One shilling, deep green.

VARIETIES.

- I.** Im. 1857. (1) 1.—Twopence, black brown *v.* on light red.
 (Swan wmk.) 2.—" " " on deep red.

- (2) 3.—Sixpence, bronze on white.
 4.—Sixpence, bronze on yellowish. } from wear, approaching to black and grey at times.
Ro. 12½ (1) 5.—Twopence
 (2) 6.—Sixpence } various shades.
Ro. 13½ (1) 7.—Twopence
Ro. 14 (2) 8.—Sixpence
II. Im. 1857 (3) 9.—Fourpence, blue *v.* on white.
 10.—" light blue on yellowish.
 11.—" deep dull blue "
 12.—" dull indigo "
 13.—" indescribable tints "
Ro. 9½ 14.—" }
Ro. 12½ 15.—" } various shades.
Ro. 14 16.—" }
Pin perf. 17 17.—" }
Error 17a.—" Swan upside down.
III. Im. 1857 (4) 18.—One shilling red-brown or sienna
 19.—One shilling deep warm brown
 20.—One shilling dark cold brown *v.* to } paper more or less yellowish or greyish.
 21.—One shilling pale cold brown thence to
 22.—One shilling dull cinereous tints
Ro. 9½ 23.—One shilling }
Ro. 12½ 24.—" } various shades, except 18.
Ro. 14 25.—" }
IV. Im. 1860 (5) 26.—One penny, black on white. } paper sometimes thick.
 27.—One penny, black on yellowish } paper sometimes thin.
Ro. 12-13 28.—One penny }
Ro. 14 29.—" } black, as above.
M 14 sq. dents 30.—" }
V. Im. (6) 31.—Twopence, vermillion
 32.—Twopence, orange } paper white to yellowish, and from nearly pelure and transparent, to thicker and opaque.
 33.—Twopence, pale red
Ro. 9½ 34.—Twopence }
Ro. 12½ 35.—" } shades as above.
Pin perf. 17 36.—" }
 (7) 37.—Fourpence, light blue, *v.* to } on thin blue
 38.—" intense blue } faced paper
 (8) 39.—Sixpence, deep yellow green.
 40.—" pale yellow green.
Ro. 9½ 41.—" } shades as above.
Ro. 12½ 42.—" }
IV. M 14 16 1861 (3) 43.—One penny, dull rose, light } paper white
 44.—" dull rose, dark } or yellowish
 44a.—" vinous } if a natural shade
 brown
V. (10) 45.—Twopence, blue, light } paper white or
 46.—" blue, dark } yellowish.
 (11) 47.—Fourpence, vermilion, light } ditto.
 48.—" vermilion, dark }
 (12) 49.—Sixpence, purple-brown, *v.* ditto.
 (13) 50.—One shilling, dark rich green.
 51.—One shilling, deep green. } paper white or yellowish, and colours varying slightly.
 52.—One shilling, bright green.
 (no wmk.) (15) 53.—Sixpence, light violet.
 54.—" lilac, on blued paper.
 (13) 55.—One shilling, dark rich green.

- IV. { M 13 no } (14) 56.—One penny, brown-carmine v.
 { wmk. } 57.— " brown-lake v.
 58.— " vinous brown.
- V. (15) 59.—Sixpence, light violet.
 60.— " dark violet.
 61.— " dark purple-violet.
- IV. M 12, 1865 (16) 62.—One penny, olive-bistre.
 (swan wmk.) (20) 63.—One shilling, green (? two shades).
- IV. M 12, 1865 (16) 64.—One penny, olive-bistre
 (cc & c wmk.) 65.— " olive-brown.
 66.— " olive-yellow.
 67.— " indescribable tints.
- V. (17) 68.—Twopence, golden yellow, v. to.
 69.— " gamboge.
 (18) 70.—Fourpence, rose carmine, v. to.
 71.— " very dark carmine.
 72.— " rose-red.
- (19) 73.—Sixpence, very light clear violet, v. to
 74.— " very dark "
 75.— " intense mauve.
- (20) 76.—One shilling, bright green, v. to
 77.— " deep green.
 Error. 78.— " bistre (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, 1870, p. 14).

THE CIVIL WAR AND THE FRENCH POST OFFICE.

As, notwithstanding the repeated declarations of the Commune that regular communications are about to be opened between the capital and the departments, Paris still remains in a state of postal isolation, a great many merchants and others, who continue in Paris, get their letters addressed to one or other of the suburban offices, "to be left till called for," and thither it is they carry and post their own correspondence.

The most popular of the outlying towns is St. Denis, and there, as also at Versailles, where the presence of the army and the government has caused an extraordinary influx of visitors, the demands on the postal service far exceed the existing accommodation in those places. Hence it has become necessary to take exceptional measures to meet the emergency, and these are graphically narrated in the following lines, translated from *La France du Nord*.

"The letters addressed *Poste Restante*, St. Denis, are no longer delivered at the regular post office, of which the *personnel* was soon found insufficient for the additional work imposed on it; but, at the Casino, before which German sentinels are posted the whole day long, to maintain order among the

formidable and heterogeneous crowd of Parisian claimants.

Up to within the last few days it was the practice to distribute the letters in the theatre at St. Denis, where a sufficient number of persons were admitted at the time to half fill the pit. The interior of the edifice, which is even more ill-conditioned than little provincial theatres usually are, was decorated with some old tricolour flags, and in the roof was an enormous hole, made by a Prussian shell. On the stage might be seen, supported on empty casks, a number of long planks, on which thousands of letters lay classed. As soon as the public had taken their places, the postal *employés*, each representing several letters of the alphabet, advanced one after the other to the foot-lights, and cried one particular initial. Those whose names began with that letter then held up their cards or papers, and after due verification, each one received the epistles addressed to him.

At the Casino the arrangements are different. Placed behind a strong barrier are as many compartments as there are letters of the alphabet, all duly distinguished by their respective initial. The claimants present themselves before the compartment of which the letter commences their name, and one of the many *employés* now on service hands them their letters.

The mass of correspondence addressed to Versailles is so great, that the postal administration has found it necessary to set up its offices in the palace, and to appropriate, as sorting-room, the great "gallery of battles, which is about 400 feet long, and whose walls are covered with the beautiful productions of Delacroix, Gerard, Ary and Henry Scheffer, and Horace Vernet.

If the Commune has not issued any stamps, it has at any rate asserted its sovereignty by striking about six thousand pounds worth of gold pieces. They bear, according to *Le Moniteur des Communes*, the effigy of the Commune, as on the silver money; but whether by this is meant the head of liberty, or some other figure symbolic of the present Parisian government, we know not. On the

edge of the coin is inscribed DROIT ET LIBERTE. Should an issue of red stamps occur, we may predict that they will bear the same legend. If the Commune lasts, such an emission will probably take place, as the Hotel de Monnaies is now under the direction of one of its delegates, who has set the stamp printing-press to work again.

In *Le Petit Moniteur*, of the 15th ult., we find the following paragraph in the course of a report on the proceedings of the National Assembly:—

M. Adenet laid on the table a bill, having for object to secure to all soldiers and sailors engaged in the present campaign the gratuitous carriage and distribution of their letters by the post-office, and to extend this privilege, after the campaign, to the wounded. The orator observed that the law of the 24th July last, which sanctioned these privileges as regards the army of the Rhine, had been virtually annulled by the peace; whilst the operations against Paris constituted, in fact, a veritable campaign.

The chamber supported the proposition, and pronounced it to be urgent.

It has been asserted that Gambetta had his *cabinet noir* at Bordeaux, which he placed under the direction of a confidential friend; and it appears from the *Moniteur des Communes* that the present rulers of Paris have re-established it there. In the good old times, letters which passed through the *cabinet noir*, or dark chamber, were manipulated with such skill as never to show any trace of having been opened; but the Commune acts more openly, or more roughly. Every letter addressed to persons in their bad books is pitilessly opened, without the least precaution being taken, and ill does it fare with its author if he has expressed the shadow of a doubt of the infallibility of the communal government. It is in consequence of a mishap of this kind that M. B——, of the Rue Blanche, has just been arrested and imprisoned, and yet his letter was a confidential one, for it was addressed to an intimate friend.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE.—Mr. Seely, last month, moved in the House of Commons—that the postage between this country and America should be reduced to a penny. Mr. Monsell, however, declared that such reduction would be impossible at present.

A LUMINOUS IDEA.—Not a bad suggestion is offered for the benefit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In this rage for stamp-collecting let Mr. Lowe sell the £1000 worth of useful match stamps to the public, for their stamp albums, and not only will he get back the thousand pounds, but the competition to possess a "match stamp" will be great.—*Globe*.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUMS.—An ingenious Philadelphia philatelist is about to apply for a patent for a mechanical postage-stamp album, on the revolving plan, which has two advantages over the ordinary album—self-securing, or a new method of holding the stamps without gumming; and a new plan of exhibiting the stamps; novel, if not useful.—*Mason's Coin and Stamp Magazine*.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.—A correspondent writes us as follows:—In the article on the Philadelphia post-office, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, you emphasise the word *county*. The city of Philadelphia now includes all of what was the *county* of Philadelphia, making our city as large (or nearly so) as London. All the county being in the city limits, the postage is, of course, but 2 cents.

IT IS RELATED in the German papers that during the siege of Paris a boy who had a passion for collecting postage stamps, and had read in the newspapers that others had obtained French balloon stamps from the royal headquarters, wrote from Potsdam to the Crown Prince, asking for some of them. Some weeks ago seven balloon letters were sent to him from the chancery of the Crown Prince; some of the stamps bear a portrait of Napoleon, and others a figure of the goddess of the Republic.—*Globe*.

THE UNITED STATES ENVELOPE.—The printing trade of the United States has strongly remonstrated with the government against the sale of stamped envelopes at their facial value. It suggests that the manufacture and sale of such envelopes should cease, and that "agencies" should be established at convenient points for the purpose of embossing or engraving the post-office stamps of such envelopes as may be sent to them for that purpose by envelope makers, printers, and others, upon prepayment of the value of the stamps and expense of affixing the same. This is just the system in vogue in England, except that we only have one "agency" for the impression of the stamps.

FRENCH IMPERIAL STAMPS UNRECOGNISED IN GERMANY.—That the stamps of one country should be virtually suppressed by another is hardly credible, yet, if we may believe the assertion of a German-French paper, such suppression has actually taken place in respect of the French imperial stamps. *Le Courier du Bas Rhin* contains the following notice:—The Baden post-offices consider as unpaid the letters arriving from France which are prepaid by means of stamps bearing the emperor's portrait; the rate charged on these letters is double, i.e., 12 kreuzers for single weight, and 20 kr. for those which are over 15 gr. It is reasonable to suppose that a large number of imperial stamps remain in the hands of French correspondents; and we should recommend them not to use any more for letters to Germany, as, double postage being charged, a great many of these letters have, to our knowledge, been refused by the addressees.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BAVARIAN ONE KREUZER BLACK.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Overy Taylor's "Papers for Beginners" are so admirable, that it might almost seem ungracious to criticise them; but as both he and myself are earnest philatelists, and desire only to get at the truth, he will I am sure, pardon me when I say that I cannot agree with all his remarks upon the 1 kr. black of Bavaria.

The date of the issue of this stamp has been taken by Mr. Overy Taylor from M. Berger-Levrault, who in this is at variance with Dr. Gray, as also with Moens and other continental catalogues.

It is not easy to abandon preconceived notions, except on the plainest proof that they are erroneous; and certainly I should not be disposed to accept the date given by M. Berger-Levrault, without some evidence, of a most satisfactory nature, that he had very solid reasons for assigning a different date to its issue, and that of the 3 kr. blue and the 6 kr. brown, than has been given to them by any other catalogue. The dates given by M. Berger-Levrault are not always to be depended upon; I could cite dozens of instances; but if there is a doubt, refer only to the dates of the first issues of the Tour and Taxis stamps.

The usual dates assigned to the issue of the early Bavarian stamps are as follows:—

5th June, 1849	1 kr. black.
1st October, 1850	1 kr. rose.
	3 kr. blue.
	6 kr. brown.
	9 kr. green.
19th July, 1854	18 kr. yellow.
1st July, 1858	12 kr. red.

With the exception of the 1 kr. black, the whole of these stamps were printed on Dickinson paper. Specimens are, however, known of the 1 kr. black printed on Dickinson paper; but these specimens are very rare: or at any rate unimpeachable copies are; much more so than Mr. Overy Taylor's remarks would induce one to think.

Now M. Berger-Levrault gives the date of the 1st November, 1849, as that of the issue of the 1 kr. black on plain paper, 1 kr. black on Dickinson paper, and of the 3 kr. and 6 kr., also on Dickinson paper. Apart from all other considerations, it might well be asked if it were probable that a simultaneous issue of the 1 kr., both on plain and on Dickinson paper, should have been made.

But Mr. Overy Taylor supports M. Berger-Levrault's dates as to the issue of the 3 kr. and 6 kr. at the same time as the 1 kr., by a suggestion that "it is hardly to be supposed that the postal authorities would have introduced the postage-stamp system by the issue of a single low-value stamp, which must have been used either for local letters, or, as is more likely, for circulars only." To this I think might well be replied, that, bearing in mind that Bavaria was the first German state which issued a postage stamp, there would be nothing improbable in supposing that the 1 kr. should have been issued as an experiment, most probably for local purposes, before the system was applied to letters circulating within the limits of the state. Instances are not wanting of this having been done in other countries; an envelope for local purposes was employed in Russia in 1845, before the issue of a general series of values; and in the case of Saxony we have an instance much more in point. In this latter country, the issue of a single stamp of the lowest value preceded the issue of the general series by twelve months.

Mr. Overy Taylor further remarks, that of the 1 kr. black there exist four varieties, two dependent on differences in the design, and two on the presence or absence of the silk thread. How far there may be two varieties of the impression on Dickinson paper, I am not able to say, having never been able to see a sufficient number of these stamps to enable me to form any judgment. It is certain, however, that there are differences in the design in the impressions on plain paper; or, rather, there are portions of the design wanting. Whether this difference arises from the one being an engraving and the other a lithograph, I am not sufficiently versed in the subject to distinguish, but I have never seen an obliterated copy of these faulty specimens; and I think we may pretty well suspect that what Mr. Overy Taylor calls the "marvellous remainder" did not exclude this variety of the 1 kr., both without and with silk thread, if this latter exists.

As the case stands at present, it seems to me that all the probabilities are against the issue of the 1 kr. black, on plain paper, simultaneously with the 3 kr. and 6 kr. on Dickinson paper; neither is it probable that it was issued along with these values and a 1 kr. black, on Dickinson paper. Speaking from personal knowledge of Dr. Magnus, I know that he does not give utterance to suppositions without reflection; and in many of his suppositions he has shown how shrewd he is. I do not think, then, that he was far wide of the mark when he stated, as his own belief, that the 1 kr. black, on Dickinson paper, was printed subsequently to the copies on plain paper, the paper having been prepared for the general issue.

One word more as to the question whether the impression on Dickinson paper is to be regarded as an essay. An essay of what? not of paper; for essays are not made of different kinds of watermarks; and the silk thread may be classed with watermarks, as it is all but invisible, unless the stamp is detached. Not an essay of design. Were the case reversed, and the impression on Dickinson paper regarded as the stamp, while the plain paper impression is regarded as the essay, or the proof, I could understand the position which the advocates of the Dickinson paper impression being an essay take up. If it is an essay, I should rather be inclined to class it within the same category as the impressions *de fantaisie* of Wurtemberg; and, if I recollect rightly, the collectors of essays have not found that Bavaria has been to them a country altogether barren in essays on their credulity.

In the absence, then, of any positive evidence, I am inclined to think that the supposition of Dr. Magnus is nearer the mark than he appears to have received credit for.

I am, yours faithfully,
A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Senor M. P. DE FIGUEROA.—Nous regrettons d'être forcés de remettre vos articles au mois prochain.

F. CAVELL, Saxmundham.—We have suppressed that portion of your letter which replies to "Philatelist's" reference to the Cuban stamps, as it was founded on a misunderstanding. Philatelist speaks of the present series issued *this year*, which bears a symbolic full-length figure.

B. T. N., Torquay.—The Philippine series of 1865 is still in use, but is to be superseded by a series of four values, identical in type with the Cuban and Spanish of that year, but without date, the denominations being expressed in "c^s de c^s" in lower margin.—We presume the stamps of the South German states will be suppressed.

COMPLETE AND AUTHENTIC LIST
OF THE RUSSIAN LOCALS.

BY OUR ST. PETERSBURG CORRESPONDENT.

THE following list has been compiled from the collection of a Russian official at St. Petersburg, who has been at great trouble to obtain specimens of all the stamps issued by the local or district courts in Russia; and it may be accepted as being, conformably to its title, at once complete and authentic.

CHARKOFF GOVERNMENT.

Charkoff.—Oval centre, with arms in upper half, and figure of value in lower, on dotted ground; inscription on white ground round about, CHARKOFF DISTRICT RURAL POST; 5 in each angle. Col. imp. rect.

5 kop., red.

Soumyy.—Description already given.

3 kop. red-brown.

CHERSON GOVERNMENT.

Cherson.—Oval centre, with sheaf of corn, rake, and scythe lying on ground, 10 kop. above, and STAMP OF CHERSON DISTRICT RURAL POST inscribed below; figure of value in each corner. Col. imp., rect.

10 kop. yellow. Now obsolete.

Cherson—Present issue, postman on horseback, in round centre, RURAL POSTAGE STAMP inscribed above, CHERSON DISTRICT below, and 10 KOP. on each side; numeral in each corner. Col. imp., rect.

10 kop. red.

Elizavetgrad.—Archway in centre, with shield between columns; spread eagle in upper half, and star in lower, surrounded by round frame with inscription RURAL POSTAGE STAMP, book standing on edge below (all the above between columns); sheaf of corn, with scythe and quill pen entwined on each side of archway, 5 KOP. inscribed on each column; the whole enclosed by round frame, with inscription ELIZAVETGRAD DISTRICT RURAL POSTAGE STAMP. Col. imp., rect.

5 kop. mauve.

EKATERINOSLAW GOVERNMENT.

Pavlograd.—Arms in centre; star above, and numeral and value below arms; inscription in surrounding oval frame; roman figure of value in angles of outer octagonal frame of crossed waved lines.

Rostoff-on-Don.—Value and inscription in oval central frame, on white ground; outer frame of vertical lines; figure of value in angles. Col. imp., rect.

5 kop. blue on white.

KAZAN GOVERNMENT.

Kazm.—Hand-stamp struck on flap of envelope; inscription PREPAID ENVELOPE OF KAZAN VILLAGE POST. Col. imp., oval. No value mentioned.

6 kop. blue.

KOURSCK GOVERNMENT.

Dmitrieff.—Imperial eagle in centre; inscription in surrounding circular frame. Black imp., rect. Inscription DMITRIEFF RURAL COURT, 3 KOP.

3 kop. white.

Fatejh.—Hand-stamp struck on flap of envelope. Arms in centre; inscription in surrounding oval frame. Col. imp., oval. Inscription FATEJH DISTRICT RURAL POST; no value.

Blue 4 kop., for letters going to post towns.

6 kop. red, " in district.

MOSCOW GOVERNMENT.

Bogorodsk.—Description already given. 3 varieties.

1 kop. red on white.

5 " blue "

10 " red "

Bronnitsi.—Numeral and value in oval, with ground of vertical lines; inscription in outer oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect. Inscription, RURAL POST OF BRONNITZI DISTRICT.

5 kop. red on white.

Kolomna.—Arms in centre; inscription in surrounding oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect., perf. Inscription VILLAGE POST OF KOLOMNA DISTRICT.

5 kop. red on white.

Podolsk.—Arms in oval vertical lines; inscription in outer oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect., perf. Inscription RURAL POST OF PODOLSK DISTRICT.

5 kop. green on white.

NIJNI NOVGOROD GOVERNMENT.

Vasilsk, or Vasilkursk.—Embossed hand-stamp. White imp., circ. Inscription, VASILSK RURAL POST.

5 kop.

NOVGOROD GOVERNMENT.

Belozersk.—Description already given.

2 kop. rect. black.

Borovitchi.—Description already given.

5 kop. red-brown.

Cherepovetz.—Known for some time to collectors, and described in the January number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870, as the Ussuruskajo stamp; the inscription is in Slavonic characters, and reads, CHEREPOVSKAYA RURAL POST. The colour is light blue on white paper, not dark as mentioned there.

3 kop. light blue.

Kiriloff.—Inscription on dotted ground, FOR ENVELOPES 1 LOTH 2 KOP, surrounded by circular frame; also with inscription, KIRILOFF DISTRICT COURT; ornaments in each angle. Black imp., rect.

2 kop. brown.

N.B.—One loth is about equal to half an ounce.

Novgorod.—Arms in centre, under imperial crown, with inscription in surrounding oval frame, RURAL VILLAGE POST; outer frame rect., of vertical lines; above this inscription, NOVGOROD; below, DISTRICT. Black imp., rect.

5 kop. rose-pink.

Tichvin.—Inscription in oblong frame; no value mentioned. Col. imp., obl.

5 kop. red.

Valdai.—Centre divided into two halves; left half, imperial crown on ground of ermine-like dots; right half, a mountain with peak; inscription in surrounding rectangular frame; figure of value in each angle of frame. Black imp., rect. Inscription, VALDAI DISTRICT RURAL COURT.

2 kop. pink.

OREL GOVERNMENT.

Livni.—Numeral of value in centre, with two stars, one below and one above; inscription in circular frame, LIVNI RURAL POST. Col. imp., circ.

3 kop., red.

Maloarchangel'sk.—Arms in centre, with inscription in circle, round about, MALOARCHANGELSK DISTRICT RURAL COURT. Black imp., circ.; no value mentioned.

5 kop. white.

POLTAVA GOVERNMENT.

Peerjatin.—Numeral and value in centre; inscription in circular frame. Col. imp., rect. Inscription, PEERJATIN RURAL VILLAGE POST STAMP.

3 kop. scarlet.

Perejaslav.—Stamp similar to that of Peerjatin.

3 kop. yellow.

PSKOP GOVERNMENT.

Toropetz.—Hand-stamp on envelope; arms with inscription in rectangular form, round about, TOROPETZ VILLAGE POST [6 and 11 kop., according to distance]; no value printed on stamp.

RIASAN GOVERNMENT.

Ejorieff.—Similar to that of Riasin.

3 kop. blue

3 kop. black.

Riasin.—Description already known; 2 varieties.

2 kop. blue

2 „ black.

Sapojok.—Arms in centre, with crown above; surrounded by rectangular frame, with inscription. SAPOJOK RURAL POST; numeral in each angle. Black imp., rect.

5 kop. white.

Skopin.—Arms in centre, with crown above; surrounded by inscription in form of horse-shoe, numeral and value below; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect. Inscription, SKOPIN RURAL POST.

3 k. blue.

ST. PETERSBURG GOVERNMENT.

Louga.—Description already given.

2 kop. blue.

SARATOFF GOVERNMENT.

Atkar.—Arms in centre, with crown above, in rectangular frame; no inscription or value mentioned. Black imp., rect.

2 kop. white.

Saratoff.—Sheaf of corn in centre, and year of issue (1869) below; surrounded by inscription in oval circle, with arms above and number of stamp below; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect.

5 kop. blue.

TAMBOFF GOVERNMENT.

Tamboff.—Arms; bee-hive, and bees flying round about, in centre, surrounded by oval frame, with inscription; numeral in each angle; TAMBOFF DISTRICT RURAL COURT, PRICE 3 K. Black imp., rect.

3 kop. white.

Schatz.—Bee-hive, with bees, in upper part of centre shield, and sheaves of corn; inscription in form of horse-shoe, round about, SCHATZ DISTRICT RURAL COURT STAMP, PRICE 3 K.; the whole enclosed in rectangular frame. Black imp., rect.

3 kop. white.

TAURIDA GOVERNMENT.

Berdiansk.—Description already given.

Dnieproff.—Centre inscription, FOR LETTERS, with numeral and value; outer frame with inscription RURAL STAMP OF DNEIPROFF DISTRICT. Black imp., obl.

5 kop. white.

Melitopol.—Imperial mantle and arms as on government stamps, with inscription MELITOPOL RURAL POST in oval frame on same; numeral and value below; FOR LETTERS inscribed above; figures of value in two lower angles. Col. imp., rect.

3 kop. red.

TCHERNIGOFF GOVERNMENT.

Koseletz.—Figure of value in centre, with inscription POSTAGE STAMP above, and KOSELETZ RURAL POST below, enclosed in rectangular frame. Inscription and frame bronze on white ground.

TULA GOVERNMENT.

Kropceevna.—Arms in centre; shield with crown above; inscription round about in form of horse-shoe, KROPEEVNA RURAL POST, THREE KOP.; numeral in each angle. Col. imp., rect.

3 k. blue

Tchern.—Arms in centre shield; two sheaves of corn, with crown above, surrounded by rectangular inscription, TCHERN RURAL POST, 3 K. Col. imp., rect.

3 kop. blue.

TVER GOVERNMENT.

Rjeff.—Arms in centre; crown on stool or cushion in upper half, rampant lion in lower, enclosed by rectangular frame, with inscription, RJEFF RURAL POST 2 K.; lower side of frame made in form of buckle. Black imp., rect.

2 kop., centre red, remainder white.

Iver.—Description already given.

2 kop. blue and rose.

VIATKA GOVERNMENT.

Kotel'nitch.—Numeral and value in centre; inscription in surrounding circular frame; and figure of value in angles. Black imp., rect. Inscription, POSTAGE STAMP OF KOTELNITCH RURAL COURT.

3 kop. blue, for letters in district.

3 „ yellow, „ to other districts or governments.

Nolinsk.—Numeral and value in centre of circle; inscription in outer oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., obl. Inscription, POSTAGE STAMP OF NOLINSK RURAL COURT.

2 kop. green.

VORONESH GOVERNMENT.

Boguchar.—Hand-stamp, black imp., oblong. Inscription, FOR BOGUCHAR DISTRICT.

5 kop. white.

From this list it will be seen that the local postage is established in forty-seven towns or districts, which are spread through twenty-one "governments," or departments; and fifty-one stamps, of which three are envelope, have been issued. These stamps, ornamented as most of them are with the arms of the issuing province, show great variety of design; few indeed are very artistically executed, but all are of the highest degree of interest to the collector, and are of no inconsiderable value to the historian. It is a significant proof of the vastness and, we might say, the unwieldiness of the

Russian empire, that the imperial postal service proper is insufficient for the extent of ground it has to work over, and therefore requires to be supplemented by a series of auxiliary offices, in order that its benefits may be made available to the dwellers in the truly "rural" districts. It is also marked evidence of a progressive spirit on the part of the Russian administration, that the supplementary service should have been authorised, as it must tend eventually to enlighten and bring into connection with the great towns the ignorant inhabitants of the far-removed villages; but it is worth noticing, on the other hand, that the initiative in the matter is not due to any paternal watchfulness on the part of the central government. The first stamps were issued by certain local tribunals "to meet a want long felt," without any preliminary sanction being required from the higher authorities, and these latter, in afterwards legalising them, only did so after their utility had been tried and proved.

Originally regarded with doubt and distrust by many leading philatelists, especially on the Continent, they are now universally accepted as being what they profess to be. In our last volume (p. 171), we published a translation of an article in *The St. Petersburg Official Gazette*, sent us by the same able and industrious correspondent to whom we are indebted for the foregoing list, wherein are given the regulations established in respect of these local posts. In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste* the imperial decree containing these regulations is published at length, and its date given as the 3rd September, 1870. That so few of the stamps come over is far from astonishing, as the greater part are used in remote districts, and never get beyond the chief town of the government. The Louga stamp, issued in the St. Petersburg province, has at once become common, because it has been easy to get, its local habitation being but a comparatively short distance from the seat of government, and the 2 kop. Tver has likewise ceased to be rare from a similar cause. In course of time the others will no doubt get cheaper and more easily obtainable, and the pages they will fill, if not adorn, will be amongst the most interesting in our albums.

ON SOME RECENT CHANGES IN THE SPANISH POSTAL REGULATIONS.

BY SENOR M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

IN this country one moves on slowly, still one moves. On the 17th March last, a new tariff was issued, whereby the following objects may be cheaply transmitted through the post:—

1.—Commercial papers	10 grammes for 3 cent de peseta
2.—Tracings	10 " " 3 "
3.—Blank paper sent for the purpose of showing its watermarks	10 grammes for 3 cent de peseta
4.—Printed announcements of births, marriages, or deaths	10 grammes for 1 cent de peseta
5.—Printer's proofs	10 " " 1 "
6.—Visiting cards	10 " " 6 "
7.—Photographic portraits	10 " " 6 "
8.—Medicines in powder, grain, or hard paste	10 grammes for 12 cent de peseta

These articles should be sent under bands, or in such way as to give facility for the examination of their contents by the postal *employés*.

The privileges thus conferred are at present limited to the mother-country, and do not extend to her colonies. Their author is one of the ablest and most competent officials of the general post office at Madrid—Senor Emile C. de Navasqües. The postmaster general, Senor Victor Balaguer, and the Minister of the interior, Mr. Sagasta, have been good enough to approve of these excellent reforms. Not a word, however, is said in the tariff respecting the prepayment of used or unused stamps. It is true that there are in Madrid several dealers in obsolete and current stamps, both Spanish and foreign, who trade openly; that philately is discussed in special and in ordinary journals; that timbrophily has, in fact, sprung up in the country of the hidalgos; but, notwithstanding, there exist two laws (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, July, 1870, p. 111), which forbid trafficking in postage stamps, and, hence, as a logical sequence, the government discreetly keeps silence, on its new tariff, respecting the forwarding of these stamps.

The "too-late" English, or the French "*après le départ*," hand-stamps till recently had no equivalent in Spain, but the system of thus indicating the time of posting

has just been introduced, and annexed is the fac-simile of the stamp employed. The translation of the words is, "After the departure." The first time that I observed it on the envelopes of letters and newspaper wrappers, was the 23rd March last.

DESPUES
DE LA
SALIDA

A RESUSCITATED UNITED STATES LOCAL.

MR. W. P. BROWN, of New York, has discovered what has every appearance of being a *bona-fide* American local, issued during the year 1845 by the postmaster of New Haven, Connecticut, Mr. E. A. Mitchell, before the emission of the government series, and for the convenience of persons who wished to post their letters after the office was closed—a thing which before adhesive stamps were issued could not be done, as the postage had to be paid in cash across the post-office counter. The stamp in question was impressed on white envelopes, and consisted of a very simple design, if design it might be called. Within a large rectangle, with notched corners, were the following words:

POST OFFICE,
NEW HAVEN, CT.

5

PAID.

E. A. Mitchell, P.M.

The signature was written by the postmaster before issuing. The stamp itself was printed in red.

Dr. Petrie, having hunted up and written to the postmaster for information respecting it, received the following obliging reply, which, together with the preceding information, we extract from the current number of *The American Journal of Philately*.

NEW HAVEN, CT., Mar. 15, 1871.

J. A. PETRIE, Esq., M.D.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 6th and 13th are at hand. Being extensively engaged in business, I have but little spare time to devote to the postage-stamp matter. My object

in getting up this stamp was simply to accommodate the public, as I charged no profit. The postage was uniform, 5 c., for all distances, and weight I think half an ounce—same as at present, but prepaid.

As no letters could be paid after business hours or Sundays, these were convenient for that purpose as well as others.

Many brought their own envelopes, and I only charged 5 cents for the postage.

The business of the office was so limited, that, to prevent objection by the P. O. Department, or forgery, I signed each one.

The stamp (or die) is a small hand-stamp, and was made by F. P. Gorham, then the principal engraver of New Haven, but now deceased. I considered the whole matter at the time of so little importance, that many minor facts in the case are entirely gone from my mind. I think all were printed on white envelopes, stamped in red ink and signed in blue ink. Red ink (vermilion) was used as the office ink in stamping the letters, and I think that must have been the colour.

It is possible that buff envelopes were used for a few, but probably not.

I have no way of knowing how many were printed, or when commenced and ended, as all my papers and accounts of current business of the office are destroyed. The number was small, and probably not over 2000 all together. They being done by hand, and with no motive of profit, they were not generally offered for sale. I was appointed postmaster, Sept. 12th, 1844, and was succeeded by John B. Robertson in 1852.

I cannot state the cost of the plate.

The plate or stamp is a single short hand-stamp. The stamp is of brass. There was only one denomination, that being 5 c. The impression was always on envelopes. I had not thought of the stamp since leaving the post-office, until I received a letter from Mr. Brown, and after hunting up the stamp, I printed a few myself and sent him, writing on them, "cancelled." Thinking, possibly, there might be some objection by the P. O. Department to my striking off impressions, I enclosed a copy to the Post Master General, giving a short history of it, and asking if there would be any objection to my furnishing some to friends and stamp collectors. Unlike his predecessors, C. A. Wickliffe, Cave Johnson, and Mr. Collamer, under whom I served, who always required any respectful letter to be answered, he has not given me a reply.

So far I have not had over twenty impressions issued. If I had any on hand when I left the office they were destroyed, as stamps came into use in the latter part of my term. I have had three applications for the die, and am offered as high as one hundred dollars for it. Parties also want a stereotype plate made, and others want 1000 of the impressions.

As the original purpose was not to make money, I shall *positively refuse* to sell any impressions, or dispose of the stamp.

As the stamp seems to possess a certain kind of value quite unanticipated by me, I have decided to place it in the possession of the New Haven Colonial Historical Society.

I shall in a few days have a pad ready, so that I can print a few perfect impressions, when I will send you a few more.

I have not as yet heard of any of the old envelopes coming to light. As all originals had my own signature, of course I cannot furnish lots to dealers, even if I wished.

I am yours,

E. A. MITCHELL.

ON THE 12 CUARTOS SPANISH OF THE 1857 TYPE.

(Translated from "*El Averiguador*" of 1st May.)

BEFORE examining whether this postage stamp was ever current, it will be as well to refer to the issues of 1855, '56, and '57, as this value was not printed till 1859.

The postal administration, in a circular dated 28th December, 1855, gave notice to the post offices in the country that the stock of postage stamps on blue paper was very short in the royal factory, and that having no paper of the same class, the stamps would in future be printed on white paper. This notice was circulated in order that the officials might recognise and accept the white paper stamps as genuine, provided they possessed all the other requisite conditions. This paper was watermarked with lines forming a kind of square.

In April, 1856, by another circular, the general post-office gave notice that the supply of stamps printed on this watermarked paper being nearly exhausted, the series would thenceforth be printed on plain paper; and all those possessing the other prescribed signs, whereby the genuine might be distinguished from the forged, printed on unwatermarked paper, might be accepted. In this circular instructions are given for the detection of forgeries; and it is a singular thing that they did not change this type, as they had previously done every year.

Of the issue begun in 1855 there were only four values, viz. :—

2 cuartos green

4 „ rose to carmine

1 real blue and blue-green

2 „ violet, of different shades;

and the issue of these values, on plain paper, continued until the 31st January, 1860.

The 12 cuartos stamps of the earlier issues had served only to prepay letters of double weight, 6 cuartos being the rate for single-weight letters. In 1854 the rate was reduced to 4 cuartos; the 12 c. stamp was then, as a matter of course, withdrawn, and throughout the period of the currency of the 1855 type the absence of this value had not been felt.

A treaty with France was, however,

signed on the 5th August, 1859, in which it was agreed that 12 cuartos should be the rate for all letters from Spain to France, weighing 4 *adarmes*, or quarter of an ounce; and the regulations for the service between the two countries, together with the date when they should come into force were thereby settled. By a decree signed the 25th November, 1859, notice was given that the said treaty would come into operation from the 1st of February, 1860.

It is but natural to suppose, that on or about the time when the treaty was signed, the order was given for the printing of a stock of the 12 cuartos stamps, necessary to frank letters to France, and nothing was said about changing the type. Doubtless it was intended to maintain the existing series at the time, and thus it happened that a supply was then and there printed of the current design.

After this, either because forgeries became more frequent, or in consequence of a wish to revert to the rule which was in practice till 1854, of issuing new postage stamps every year, it was decided to create a new series; and in a circular of the 17th January, 1860, the general post-office gave notice that it had resolved on changing the type of the stamps used for franking and registering letters.

On the 13th of the same month the department issued another notice to all the governors of provinces, stating that the new postage stamps would be of the value of 2, 4, and 12 cuartos, 1 and 2 reales; that their employment would commence on the 1st of February; and that during the first fifteen days following, and until the old designs were exchanged for the new, the public might use both indiscriminately.

It results from the foregoing that the 12 cuartos stamp of the 1857 type was assuredly never in circulation; as the only time it could have been circulated would have been during the first fifteen days of February; and this only supposing it had been in circulation before, which in fact it never was.

[*Vide* Article, "Two Spanish Stamps," in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vii., p. 180. The conjectures therein advanced are now fully borne out.—ED.]

SUCCESS OF THE HALFPENNY POSTAGE RATE.

NEARLY nine months' experience of the halfpenny postage does not appear to have belied the anticipations respecting it. There are no such signs of serious diminution of postal revenue as had been predicted—although a loss of £50,000 was caused by the abolition of the newspaper stamp—whilst the development of the postal service has only been in proportion to public requirements. It is clear that post-office administrators were prepared for a large addition of work. In the first six months of the new rates, upwards of 58,000,000 post cards and about 110,000,000 halfpenny labels and stamped wrappers were issued. In one direction, however, the anticipations of the authorities appear not to have been verified by results. The quantity of paper sent in by the public to receive the impressed stamp appears to have fallen short of the estimate, the number of stamps impressed being only in the proportion of 10 per cent. to the wrappers supplied at Somerset House. The six months' issue of the halfpenny postage was as follows:—

	Number.	Duty.
½d. postage labels	77,215,680	£160,866
½d. post cards	58,485,960	121,845
½d. wrappers	33,048,420	68,850
Total,	168,750,060	£351,561

Thus it would appear that the consumption of halfpenny stamps of all denominations has in round numbers amounted to six and a half millions per week, or nearly a million a day. Who shall say that the advocates of halfpenny postage do not now stand justified?—*Globe.*

THE PONY EXPRESS.

AN EXTRACT FROM "MARK TWAIN."

IN a little while all interest was taken up in stretching our necks and watching for the "pony rider," the fleet messenger who sped across the continent, from St. Joe to Sacramento, carrying letters nineteen hundred miles in eight days! Think of that for perishable horse and human flesh and blood to do! The pony rider was usually a little bit of a fellow, brimful of

spirit and endurance. No matter what time of night his watch came on, and no matter whether it was winter or summer, raining, snowing, hailing or sleeting, or whether his "beat" was a level, straight road or a crazy trail over mountain crags and precipices, or whether it led through peaceful regions, or regions that swarmed with hostile Indians, he was always ready to leap into the saddle and be off like the wind.

There was no idling for a pony rider on duty. He rode forty miles without stopping, by daylight, moonlight, starlight, or through the blackness of darkness, just as it happened. He rode a splendid horse, that was born for a racer, and fed and lodged like a gentleman, kept him at his utmost speed for ten miles, and then, as he came crashing up to a station, where stood two men holding a fresh, impatient steed, the transfer of rider and mail bag was made in the twinkling of an eye, and away flew the eager pair, and were out of sight before the spectator could get hardly the ghost of a look. Both rider and horse went "flying light."

The rider's dress was thin and fitted close; he wore a "round about" and "skull cap," and tucked his pantaloons into his boot-tops, like a race rider. He carried no arms—he carried nothing that was not absolutely necessary, for even his postage on his literary freight was worth two dollars an ounce. He got but little frivolous correspondence to carry; his bag had business letters in it mostly. His horse was stripped of all unnecessary weight too. He wore a little wafer of a racing-saddle, and no visible blanket. He wore light shoes, or none at all. The little flat mail pockets strapped under the rider's thighs, would hold about the bulk of a child's primer.

They held many and many an important business chapter and newspaper letter, but these were written on paper as airy and thin as gold-leaf nearly, and thus bulk and weight were economized. The stage coach travelled about a hundred to a hundred and twenty-five miles a day (twenty-four hours); the pony rider two hundred and fifty. There were about eighty pony riders in saddle all the time, night and day, stretching in a long scattering procession from Missouri to Cali-

fornia—forty flying eastward and forty toward the west, and among them making four hundred gallant horses earn a stirring liveliness, and see a great deal of scenery every single day in the year.

We had a consuming desire from the beginning to see a pony rider, but somehow or other, all that passed us, and all that met us, managed to streak by in the night, and so we heard only a whiz and a hail, and the swift phantom of the desert was gone before we could get our heads out of the windows. But now we were expecting one along every moment, and would see him in broad daylight.

Presently the driver exclaims,

"Here he comes!"

Every neck is strained further, and every eye wider. Away across the endless dead level of the prairie, a black speck appears against the sky, and it is plain that it moves. Well, I should think so! In a second or so it becomes a horse and rider, rising and falling—sweeping towards us nearer and nearer—growing more and more distinct, more and more sharply defined—nearer and nearer, and the flutter of the hoofs comes faintly to the ear—another instant, a whoop and a hurrah from our upper deck, a wave of the rider's hand, but no reply, and man and horse burst past our excited faces, and go winging away like a belated fragment of a storm.

So sudden is it all, and so like a flash of unreal fancy, that but for the flake of white foam left quivering and perishing on a mail sack, after the vision had flashed by and disappeared, we might have doubted whether we had seen any actual horse and man at all, may be.

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

BY THE REV. ROBERT B. EAREE, BIRMINGHAM.

THERE has been a good deal of opposition manifested, until lately, to the growing desire for the possession of stamps with abnormal watermarks; but now, "philosophical philatelists" seem to have very generally accepted the said stamps as fit and proper objects for collection. In the term "abnormal watermarks," I include all those

which are the result of accident or necessity (such as the Victorias, with figures or words of a different value from that on the face of the stamp); but, as these have been, or will be, catalogued by men knowing a hundred times more than I do about philately, I intend to offer to your readers a list of inverted watermarks alone, and of those only such as have been, or are in my own possession. But let me offer, first of all, a few remarks in favour of the collection of inverted watermarks. We collect the 1855 Italians, with *inverted head* (by the way, I have never seen them postmarked); we accept—when we can get it—the United States 1869-70 15 cents, with reversed vignette, &c., &c.; and these are no more, or rather, no less, authentic than the once despised inverted watermarks; therefore, it seems to me, that if the first are deemed worthy of a place in our albums, the others should not "be left out in the cold,"—the cold of indifference and contempt. I have stated my reasons as shortly as possible, in order to avoid encroaching too much upon your space, and I will now proceed to my small list.

- Chili (second issue), five cents vermilion, inverted "5."
- Great Britain (1855). Sixpence lilac embossed, inv. "v.r."
- " (1864). One penny red, inv. "*crown*"
- " (1870). Halfpenny red, inv. "*halfpenny*."
- India (1865). Two annas yellow, inv. *elephant's head*.
- Jamaica (1863)? Threepence green, inv. *pineapple*.
- New South Wales (1854). Sixpence cinnamon, inv. "6."
- " (1854). One shilling dark rose, inv. "12."
- " (1856). Threepence bluish green, inv. "3."
- " (1862). Twopence light blue, inv. "2."
- " (1864). One penny red, inv. "1."
- Straits Settlements (1867). Eight cents green on orange, inv. *elephant's head*.
- Tasmania (1862). Twopence green, inv. "2"
- " (1862). Fourpence blue, inv. "4."
- Victoria (1862). One penny green, inv. "1."

I am aware that this list will be thought a very meagre one, but, so far as it goes, it may be relied upon; and I doubt not that when the attention of painstaking philatelists has once been directed to this part of our science, we shall soon have very much more extended catalogues. All the stamps described are in my own possession, with the exception of the English penny, with inverted crown, and that I have seen and examined.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

VICTORIA.—Another stamp may now be added to the list—already too long—of so-called “provisional” stamps, which often linger long enough to acquire the right to be considered as fixtures. This latest arrival is the current tenpenny of Victoria, transformed into a ninepence. The change is effected by surcharging the necessary word across the lower margin of the stamp, and by obliterating, with the figure 9, the numeral which has hitherto done duty on each side of the oval as an indication of the value. The added inscription and figures are in deep blue ink; the colour of the stamp itself is unchanged. Our copy bears the old watermark—the figures 10.

BOLIVIA.—A correspondent, writing from Falmouth, sends us, in communication, three commercial stamps, which paid the postage on a letter he recently received. He adds, “I have received several of them regularly postmarked; in fact, two or three firms in this town, having correspondents in that country, inform me that they have received no other stamps on their Bolivian letters for the past two months.” With the example of the Peruvian series, issued under the dictature before us, we are inclined to argue that the recent disturbances in Bolivia may be in some manner the cause of the adoption of the commercial series into the ranks of the great army of postage stamps. The stock of postage stamps proper may have run short in some particular towns, and the state of the country may have prevented the procuring of fresh supplies. These are but conjectures, it is true; but it may be in the power of the obliging correspondent who, by the intelligence he sends us, has occasioned them, to ascertain how far they are founded.

The fiscal stamps—which have been pressed into duty for the prepayment of letters—are very handsomely designed. They are of the same size as the postals, are perforated, and bear in the centre of an oval, inscribed *TRANSACCIONES SOCIALES BOLIVIA*, the full-length figure of Justice holding the scales; the value is indicated by numerals, on variously disposed labels, at the four angles,

and by the word *CENTAVOS*, which runs along the lower margin. The values we have received are the 10 c. green, and 5 c. black. The engraving of these stamps is evidently the work of one of the New York companies.

HUNGARY.—The post card represented in our last number turns out to have been but

the forerunner of a series of adhesives and envelopes for the kingdom. The type, which we annex, is identical with that used for the cards. The values and colours, for both envelopes and adhesives, we

understand, are to be the same as those of the Austrian series, and the stamps will be issued, value after value, as the existing stock is used up. The only one at present in use is the 5 kr., reddish rose, which has been seen obliterated. It is not a very brilliant nor artistic design, but perhaps the entire series may have a good effect.

In addition to these adhesives there is also a newspaper stamp of a different design—a stamp like the current Austrian Mercury, without inscription or indication of value. The design consists of the Hungarian crown (we believe, but borrowing a phrase from the Tichborne case, “it would not surprise us” to learn it is some other crown), and below it is a post-horn; the whole in an uncoloured circle. The rectangle is completed by a slightly ornamented marginal frame, and lined spandrels. It is printed in red, and the execution is very poor.

FRANCE.—The half sheet of 150 of the 20 c., head of Liberty, perforated, contains no fewer than three reversed stamps. The following are their positions:—

10th row down, 2nd stamp from left.

11th „ „ right-hand stamp.

Last „ „ 3rd stamp from right.

These errors no doubt occurred in making up the plate for the new emission. The unperforated stamps are now getting scarcer, the 10 and 20 c. being the only ones which are at all freely used. In many places the laureated one-centime of the empire has been brought back into currency. M. Moens notices a 40 c. imperforate very pale yellow.

He also has been informed, by one of his correspondents, that proofs exist in Paris of the head of Liberty (engraved) stamps, on which the inscription COMMUNE DE PARIS has taken the place of the old REPUB. FRANC. It is not at all unlikely that the Commune intended issuing stamps, seeing that at one period of the siege its officers entered the tobacco shops, and pounced on all the stamps they could find, the stock at the post-offices being even then so short.

RUSSIA.—*Novgorod*.—We give an engraving of a new stamp for the district of Novgorod. It has been kindly forwarded by the correspondent who furnishes the list of Russian locals, which it is our good fortune to be able to give our readers in the present number. It represents the value of 5 kopek, and is printed black on rose.



LIVONIA.—The once-doubted stamp, bearing a griffin in oval, has at length given place to the stamp herewith represented, which may be described as the same design, *without* the griffin in oval, in this particular greatly resembling the first rectangular stamp issued. Like its predecessor, it has the centre green and the frame red, or carmine.

PORTUGAL.—Of the new issue there are now in existence the

- 5 reis black
- 10 „ yellow
- 20 „ bistre
- 50 „ green
- 100 „ pale lilac

AZORES.—The new series for the mother-country is at present represented in these islands by four values—

- 5 reis black, surcharge red
- 10 „ yellow, „ black
- 25 „ rose, „ „
- 50 „ green, „ „

JAMAICA.—Specimens of the threepence pale green, and sixpence mauve, have appeared, according to our Belgian contem-

porary, with cc and crown watermark, instead of the old familiar pine-apple.

TASMANIA.—Two more values of the new type have been issued, the

- Threepence, reddish brown
- Five shillings, bright violet.

These are watermarked with the letters TAS running diagonally from left to right.

SWITZERLAND.—Newspaper wrappers bearing impressed stamps have just been issued for the Helvetic republic; only two values are as yet in circulation, viz.—

2 centimes rose.

5

but others will be issued if the public are found to appreciate the system.

The paper makers and stationers have no cause of complaint, inasmuch as these bands are issued at prices above their facial value, according to their size, to cover the cost of paper. The design is formed of the figure of value, with a cross above, and CENTIMES on a label below, surrounded by wreath.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The handsome one-cent adhesive has been superseded by another stamp formed from it and almost identical in design, coloured a kind of brownish violet. The portrait is *probably* the same, but the background has certainly been remade, and the pointed oval frame has also been re-cut. The inscriptions and, notably, the letters N. F. are smaller, and there are differences in the disposition of the foliage easily observable on comparison.

SPAIN.—The new series of stamps may be expected to see the light very shortly; and according to our Spanish contemporary, *El Averiguador*, the first values to appear will be the 6, 10, 12, 25, 40, and 50 centimos de peseta. The colours are not yet known, but it is certain the stamps will bear the king's portrait, the face turned slightly towards the left. The 1, 4, and 10 peseta will be from a different die from the others, and the 1, 2, and 5 centimos de peseta alone will bear a numeral; of these latter only the lowest value will appear on 1st July, and even that may be delayed.

The Averiguador, criticising the description

given of the forthcoming issue in *Le Timbre-Poste* (and quoted by us), says there is no doubt that the editor of the Belgiau paper has seen proofs of a rejected design, and has been deceived by his correspondent into believing them to be of the adopted type. The Spanish paper, however, believes that M. Moens, whilst acknowledging, will not regret his error, on learning that the accepted design is even finer than the one of which he has spoken so highly.

CANADA.—The first of our possessions to follow our example in issuing post cards is the dominion of Canada. The dominion has had the design executed by the Montreal Bank Note Company, and the cards are now in circulation. They are rather smaller than our own, and the device, though very finely engraved, has a somewhat heavy appearance. There is, first, a broad exterior engine-patterned border; in the right-hand corner is the impressed stamp, which has the Queen's profile, as on the *first* series of the dominion adhesives, but in a kind of indented scroll frame; and below the portrait, in a straight line, are the words ONE CENT. Across the upper part of the card, in two lines, runs the inscription—

CANADA POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

To _____

The whole is in blue ink, on pale buff card.

FIJI ISLANDS.—*The Philatelist* contains the following:—

“Mr. Pemberton possesses, on dice-pattern watermarked paper, black on pale pink, two additional values to those previously described; making the complete set of penny, twopence, sixpence, and shilling, all pinpricked on a coloured line.”

“KOORSHEDJAH.”—Our Brighton contemporary also contains the following correction of a somewhat curious error:

“In our article on the advantages of philatelic study, entitled “Paper Medals,” which will be found in the first volume of this magazine, we instanced its necessitating attention to geography, among other requirements, and referred to the mystery once existing with regard to the Bergedorf and

Thurn and Taxis stamps, in the early stages of what was then called timbromania. The impressions known under the above name, were first described and figured in our fourth volume; and we own ourselves (and believe an overwhelming majority of collectors fell into the same error) that we concluded the outlandish looking individuals in question, took their cognomen from some district, city, or province of Hindostan. Wishing to get some inkling of the situation, &c., of the same, we hunted over all the gazetteers, atlases, and geographies we could find in the reading-room of the British Museum, but in vain. At length, on applying where we ought to have gone at first, viz., to the party whence we received some, the astounding information came, that the name was not derived from a place, but from a man! They represent the signature of His Highness The Nawab Koorshed Jah Bahadoor, Hyderabad, Deccan; and consequently, though not strictly speaking, postals, must be classed with the other Deccan stamps.”

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The two-shilling stamp now comes over of a rich carmine-lake tint.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

I.

I FEEL great diffidence in commencing a series of papers on this (to me) most intricate of all philatelic subjects; and must, at the very outset of my undertaking, ask the indulgence of my readers for any shortcomings of which I may be guilty.

For several months past I have been groping my way through a perfect labyrinth of facts and fiction, and am still far—very far—from out of the maze. I have had many valuable suggestions from numerous correspondents, but although the said suggestions were everything that could be desired in theory, when they had to be put into practice, the result was not nearly so satisfactory.

One friend argued, that as the stamps were local, they ought to be classified by localities. This I entirely agree with, were such a proposition feasible; but I regret

to say it is not. As I cannot adopt this system of arrangement, or even assign to every local its correct place of nativity, I am constrained to abandon all idea of making at this time (and I fear at any other) a complete history of the United States locals. I have therefore decided to publish the result of my researches under the more modest guise of *Notes*.

I intend not only to describe the genuine emissions, but any forgeries, or "bogus" productions that may come under my notice; and I may here repeat, that I shall always be happy to receive any information or suggestions that my brother philatelists may be pleased to favour me with.

American locals have been so often abused, that I think a few words should be penned in their defence. I know several amateurs who have discarded these stamps "because they are so endless," or for the reason that "they are so difficult to understand." To me, in this last objection lies their greatest charm; the more complicated a subject is, the more I like to study it; and I should say this ought to be the feeling of everyone who takes a really sincere interest in the science.

There are weeds in every garden, but that is no reason why we should refuse to plant flowers. If we can only manage to root out the weeds, surely the flowers will be worth retaining. Ever since the birth of philately, there has been far too much apathy upon the subject of United States locals; for had each variety, upon its appearance, been traced to its source, we should long ere this have had fuller particulars as to which were genuine and which impositions.

Leaving the Californians out of the question, I think we shall find that more than two-thirds of the chronicled locals have emanated from the teeming brains of unprincipled dealers, or—in the case of fancy colours—of speculative proprietors. If we can only manage to separate the tares from the wheat, we shall find the show of really good locals a most presentable and interesting

but were far from accommodating in their system of delivering the same. The earliest stamp was the well-known vignette with the courier crossing over buildings, issued by D. O. Blood & Co., for use in Philadelphia only. This was brought out in 1843, and in the succeeding year Messrs. Blood's example was followed by Hale & Co., of Boston, who carried between that city, Philadelphia, and New York. Brainard & Co., and W. Wyman, of the last-named city, also started private posts, and adopted stamps about the same time.

The establishment of these local posts spread so rapidly, that almost every city could boast of at least one, although all did not issue stamps.

I will now commence my notes by describing the various issues of

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST.

This undertaking was established in 1846, by Mr. J. T. Boyd, of New York, for the delivery of letters and circulars within that city. The company is still in existence for the conveyance of printed matter, but the carriage of letters is now, of course, a carefully-guarded government monopoly.

No less than six types of the adhesive stamps have been engraved; all having the same design as a basis, but differing in minor details.

As no information can be obtained from the issuers, it is impossible to give to each die its date of emission; but I am quite certain that they were brought out in the order of their arrangement in the following list. There is no doubt that the earliest type was only in use a short time, as copies are not easily attainable. I have an envelope dated 1848, bearing a 2 cents of the first issue, postmarked with a "gridiron" cancellation. Upon the cover is struck an oblong oval handstamped impression in red, containing the name of the express; and in the centre an oblong frame with the date, May 25—2. This last figure probably re-

The issue of locals was caused in the first place by the mismanagement of the posts by the government, who not only charged very high prices for the carriage of mail matter,

fers to the second delivery, or to the time of day. In the lower corner of the envelope is another red handstamp, reading PAID, with J.T.B. underneath. The cover under notice has been dated in full by the sender, so we may reasonably surmise that the first type had a run of two years at least.

The following catalogue has been compiled with the kind assistance of Mr. Bentham, to whom my sincere thanks are due.

The generic design of the several series may be described as:--

Within a double-lined upright oval an eagle, with expanded wings, surmounting a globe; the whole surrounded by an outer frame inscribed BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST; 1 (or 2) CENTS. All are imperforate.

TYPE I. (a)—Tail of eagle, long: extending to the utmost limit allowed by the frame. Head of the bird *regardant*. The right wing is raised, and the left droops; neither of them touch the border. The shading of the background is faint and fine. A small crack is apparent in the plate, extending from that portion of the border near to C of CITY, to the top of the right wing. Figure 2 is small, fine, and light, but imperfectly formed. No stop after CENTS.

2 cents black on green *glacé* paper.

2 „ dull gold on creamy white *glacé* paper.

(b) (Same plate retouched, and *not* improved). Both the wings *nearly* touch the border, the space between being scarcely discernible. The feathers on the eagle's throat are heavily marked, and the whole outline is heavily defined. The shading in the background is coarser and heavier than in (a). The crack in plate has disappeared. The figure 2 is strong, and perfectly formed. No stop after CENTS.

All the lettering in these two plates is alike.

2 cents black on green paper, slightly *glacé*.

(c) (Same plate, again touched up, and again further spoilt). Wings much the same as b, but heavier, and blotchy. The body covered with scratches, probably intended for feathers. The shading of the background is very heavy, and comparatively coarse. The base of the figure of value is longer than in the preceding plates. The lettering is degenerated, being thin and feeble. A small period after CENTS.

2 cents black on pale green (dull paper).

2 „ dull gold on creamy white (*glacé*).

II.—Breast of bird almost hairless; tail short (but wide), and cut straight off above the level of the globe. The loop of the 2 is rounded into the upstroke of the figure.

The s of CENTS being imperfectly scratched out of the 2 cents, to make that die serve for the 1 c., a portion of the letter is visible upon all stamps of the lower value.

2 cents black on green (*glacé* paper).

Var. 2 cents black on green (*glacé* paper) punched out oval.

1 cent black on green (*glacé* paper).

III.—This is apparently type II. renovated, and (according to the rule in these stamps) deteriorated. The expression of the "fowl" is languishing and absurd, and its tail is indefinite. The lettering is very heavy; figure 2 large and open.

2 cents black on coarse bluish green.

Var. 2 „ „ „ „ punched out oval.

IV.—Eagle, with small head and beak, and violent expression of countenance; tail short and thin; left wing pressed against the border.

2 cents black on vermillion.

1 cent black on lilac *glacé* paper.

The s in 1 c. removed as in II.

V.—*Regardant* eagle. A triple border. The head flat, and beak long and hooked; right wing suggestive of beckoning. The background is perfectly solid.

2 cents black on dull green.

2 „ red on white.

2 „ black on deep orange.

2 „ black on vermillion.

Var. 2 „ „ „ „ punched out in diamond form.

VI.—The oval frame narrower and more elongated. Eagle fronting, with general appearance of dancing a hornpipe. Lettering and drawing of bird very bad. A Roman figure I.

1 cent black on lavender *glacé* paper.

1 „ „ dark blue „ „

ENVELOPES.

TYPE 1.—Eagle, *regardant*, sitting on boughs and thunderbolts, circumscribed *BOYD'S CITY POST,* 39, FULTON ST., COR. OF PEARL. In oval frame; embossed (*see cut*).

Vermilion on white, yellow, and buff.

Dull red

Mazarine blue

Sky blue

„ „ „
„ „ „
„ „ „

II.—Small eagle, *regardant*, circumscribed BOYD'S CITY DISPATCH, * 39, FULTON ST. *: in oval; the whole within a fancy frame; 2 c. in each corner.

(a) Eagle's left wing scoops *inwards* towards the body. The ornaments of three points upon each side of the frame are blotchy. The one on the left has a solid circular smudge at the end of the middle point, and a slight curl jutting out from the upper one; the middle of the right-hand ornament is long and thick at the point.

2 cents red on white.

(b) The left wing scoops *outwards*. The ornaments are plainly drawn, and not at all blotchy.

2 cents red on white, yellow, and buff.

2 „ lake

2 „ violet-red

2 „ chocolate

„ „ „
„ „ „
„ „ „

I have postmarked copies before me of

every stamp mentioned in the above list, so there cannot be any question as to the genuineness of each and all of them.

Some few years since a friend of mine, then residing in New York, inquired at Boyd's office for their stamps; he obtained some of the 1 cent of the fifth type, and some vermilion 2 c. of the preceding die, with the addition of the latter value in gold on green, on blue, and on claret,—all of the fourth series. Now these stamp were certainly sold to frank through Boyd's post, but as I have never been able to come across a used copy of either of the golden-hued trio, I have thought it best to leave them unenumerated in my catalogue. Where locals are concerned, I think it particularly desirable to omit altogether when there is the *slightest* doubt.

It is worse than useless to turn to any published work (whether American or British) for information respecting Boyd's or (with a *very* few exceptions) any United States locals. In my endeavours to make one compiler coincide with another, I have tried every list, from Booty's downwards, and have only succeeded in getting my ideas so mixed up that I resolutely refuse to undertake the task of unravelling them.

Kline, of Philadelphia, agrees with Mount Brown, even to the extent of chronicling the sham 3 cents; but this is not very wonderful, if we remember Mr. Kline as the gentleman who looked upon plagiarism as only an economisation of his own labour. Abandoning *all* catalogues and so-called "guides" as absolutely worthless, we have nothing further to help us, except a short monograph by Mr. Scott, in *The American Journal of Philately*; this I will first transcribe, *verbatim*, and then comment upon.

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST 2 CENTS in oval band, eagle on globe in centre large size, black impression on green glazed paper. This stamp was used in 1846. The stamp this description is taken from, is supposed unique.

1857-60.—BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST, ONE CENT, eagle in oval; altered from same date two cent stamp. Black impression on green glazed paper.

1860-70.—Altered from same date two cent stamp; variety reading 1 CENTS. Black impression on pale blue glazed paper.

1870.—Different [*sic*] engraved, no period after cent. Black impression on blue glazed paper.

1848-50.—BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST 2 CENTS in oval band, eagle in centre on globe. Globeslanting, thin narrow figure 2, black impression on green glazed paper.

1851-2.—Same as last, but inside oval much heavier;

figure 2 better shaped. Black impression on green glazed paper.

1853.—Same as last with period after cents. Black impression on green glazed paper. Gold impression, glazed paper, white.

1854-5.—Similar to last, but eagle's wing different, and globe upright, broad figure 2. Black im. on green glazed paper.

1855.—Similar to last, but eagle's right wing does not touch the side; broad white line inside. Black impression on green paper.

1857.—Same as last. Black impression on vermilion [*sic*] glazed paper, and colored impression on white paper, red.

1857-60.—Part of eagle's wing covered by oval; large headed figure 2. Black upon green glazed paper.

1860-70.—Similar to last, eagle's right wing curved against side of oval. Black impression, glazed paper, vermilion [*sic*]. Gold impression on glazed paper, green, crimson.

It will be noticed that the stamp heading the list is described as "eagle on globe in centre large size." Absence of all punctuation leaves us in the dark as to whether it is the eagle, the globe, or the centre which is large; probably the size refers to the entire label; if so, it is quite unknown to me. Perhaps Mr. Scott will give a fuller description of this rarity, and so set all doubts at rest.

According to our American authority, we must give the annexed dates to the several types.

TYPE I. (a)—1848.

(b or c) 1851 (2 cent green on black).

(c) 1853 (2 cent gold on white).

II.—1854.

III.—Not given.

IV.—1860 (2 cents).

V.—1870.

VI.—1856 (2 cent black on green).

„ —1857 (2 cent red on white, and black on vermilion).

The date 1857 for the earliest 1 cent must be an error, as that stamp is from an altered die of type II., which were issued (*ante*) 1854. What Mr. Scott terms "pale blue" for the second type of the lowest value, is in reality a lilac. He omits the lavender 1 c. of the current issue, although it undoubtedly exists.

Type IV. is said to have been emitted *after* type VI., but this cannot be altogether correct, as the 2 c. vermilion of the latter die is now current. It is, of course, possible that the red on white, and black on green 2 c. of type VI. preceded the vermilion 2 c. of the fourth type. If so, when the use of the last-named die ceased, the old one must have been reverted to.

In types II., III., and V., varieties are mentioned as "punched out." An oval punch was made the size of the design, and was used, after the manner of the Guadalupe, upon the stamps of the two first-named emissions. Quite lately, copies of the present 2 c. have appeared, upon small diamond-shaped paper, evidently punched from a larger sheet. The stamps being printed with considerable space between them, easily admit of this mode of separation.

The envelope impressions are struck upon different sizes of paper, to suit the taste of wholesale purchasers.

Several forgeries of the adhesives are about, but I do not know of any imitations of the envelopes.

All Boyd's of a higher value than 2 cents, may be instantly discarded; and so may any labels that do not answer to the descriptions given in the preceding list.

Mr. Scott gives the gold on green and gold on crimson of the fourth type as emitted stamps; this seems to clinch the assertion of my New York friend; but my advice is, retain these labels until the question can be definitely settled.

In concluding my notes on these stamps, I may devote a few lines to the means by which they were obliterated.

The earliest postmark seems to have been a six-barred oval; this was followed by one inscribed PAID, J.T.B., in two lines, and another having NEW YORK in a semicircle, with date (*not* of year) in centre. A small oblong oval, lettered PAID, is sometimes found upon the fourth type. Upon the current 2 c. we have a large circular mark, with BOYD'S DESPATCH, 89, FULTON ST., and date.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—VI.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

UNITED STATES.—A few copies of the lately-defunct 24 cents have passed the post, which show the central view in a "topsy-turvy" position. We have also seen a 3 c. envelope of the new type embossed without colour.

VICTORIA.—This colony possesses quite an *olla podrida* of errors, but they are nearly all in the watermarks. The only mistakes

in engraving occur among the stamps of the earliest type, with half-length portrait of Her Majesty. The ordinary twopenny are lettered T.H. in the lower angles; in the stamps with coarse ground and border there are two errors, having T.B. and T.R. respectively; and in the fine border labels we find one inscribed VICTORIA. Another curious variety of this stamp is one having the place usually appropriated to the value left blank. A few of these passed the post, so they were evidently from the sheets issued to the public.

Although they can scarcely be given as errors, still we must chronicle the differences existing upon the black sixpenny, with head in plain oval. Side by side upon the sheets we have noticed one stamp in which the ground of the central oval is quite solid, and another wherein the white ring is very prominent; the latter is probably due to the deterioration of the die. These differences are found both upon the stamps watermarked SIXPENCE, and upon those with numeral of value.

In the type having figures at each side of the central oval, there is a numeral-watermarked sixpenny, having an evident flaw in the right-hand 6; and in the current twopenny, copies are common showing the letters of value shaded.

Some specimens of the earliest shilling show the two final letters in the inscription of value much battered.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Among the earliest fourpenny a few copies have been discovered with the swan *renversé*, but one of the most interesting errors is the shilling of the present issue, printed in the bistre colour of the penny. This rarity is obliterated, and in the collection of the secretary of the Philatelic Society.

WURTEMBERG.—There are not any errors among the adhesives of this kingdom, but specimens of the 6 kr. envelopes with large green lettering exist, inscribed DREI and NEUN kreuzer respectively.

To bring our papers on errors down to the present time, we must add a few varieties which have been found too late for insertion in their proper order.

BAVARIA.—*Regensburg*.—The returned letter labels used by this city contain numerous varieties and errors; among these latter we have OHERPOSTAMT, for "oberpostamt," and ROTOURBRIEF, in lieu of "retourbrief."

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—All the values exist with inverted network. These stamps seem lately to have been so carelessly printed, that had the error originated at the commencement of the issue, it would be a question as to which was the right way of the *burelé*, and which the wrong.

FRANCE.—The 30 c. imperial, with horizontal lines in disc, is well known. A trustworthy correspondent lately mentioned a 40 c. with perpendicular lines.

GREAT BRITAIN.—*The American Journal of Philately* lately noticed an almost unique variety of the present shilling adhesive "with large letters in the upper and small ones in the lower corners." As it was obliterated, one sheet at least must have been printed.

MONTEVIDEO.—In addition to the previously described errors in the 5 c. labels, there is one which has lately appeared with the centre stroke missing to the first E in *Montevideo*; *Diez* is also turned into *Dizz* upon the cipher in some of the 10 c. stamps.

SPAIN.—We have seen a one-real stamp of 1857 inscribed CORRROS, instead of the orthodox word; and we are informed that some of the same value in the 1855 set are lettered CORRLOS.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Oppen's Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue. Fifteenth Edition. Revised, corrected, and brought up to the present time, by DR. VINER. London: W. Stevens.

It is not very difficult, though it may be painful, to dilate on the deficiencies of an old acquaintance; but when one has nothing but good to say, a few well chosen and pregnant words of recommendation suffice. Thus it is with us, in respect of our old friend, *Oppen's Album*, now half way through its teens. When we have repeated our old objection that it is not printed on one side only, we have said all we can say against it; and, *per contra*, we are happy to bear testimony

to the combined excellence of its arrangements, type, paper, and binding. Externally it is a most attractive book, and its beauty is very far from being only skin (or cover) deep; and it may certainly claim to have been brought up to the present time, seeing that it includes spaces for the stamps of Mozambique, which as yet have been heard of, but not seen; and the stamps of the Fiji Islands, which are as yet hardly known.

In conclusion, we can very cordially recommend this old-established favourite to all our readers who are in want of a ruled album.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PERSONAL.—Senor M. P. de Figueroa writes us as follows:—"I have received a number of letters from Europe and America, from persons who have no doubt seen my name in this magazine, or in *The Philatelist*, requesting me to send Spanish stamps in exchange for foreign ones, or against remittances. As I cannot reply to them all, permit me to make use of your columns to inform my correspondents that *I am not a dealer in stamps*."

POCKET POSTAL WEIGHTS.—Among the host of things not generally known, or at least not remembered at the proper moment, is the fact that most of us are in the habit of carrying postal weights in our pockets. They exist in the pleasant shape of current coins of the realm, and are therefore usually at hand at any and all times. The bronze penny is a kind of universal coin, but who knows its weight avoirdupois? The fact is, however, that 48 pence go to a pound, and that three such coins weigh just an ounce. A letter, then, which weighs over three pennies, and less than four pennies and a halfpenny, requires three penny stamps; and one weighing less than three halfpennies, or half an ounce, must have a penny stamp affixed to it. All our silver coins are safe postal weights. The pound troy of this metal is cut into 66 shillings, or a proper number of other coins equal to that rate. The crown piece is therefore just under the ounce in weight, the half-crown just below the half-ounce, and any number of subordinate silver pieces equal in nominal value to those coins, is also equal to them in weight. A letter which does not weigh more than a florin and a sixpence, or five sixpences, or ten threepences, for example, requires a penny stamp only. As the pound troy of standard gold produces forty-six sovereigns and the fraction of a sovereign, those coins, when used as postal pocket weights, may each without risk be taken to weigh a quarter of an ounce. A letter which does not exceed the weight of two sovereigns, will therefore pass unchallenged through the post-office with one penny Queen's head affixed to it. For foreign postage, wherein the quarter-ounce letter is common, a sovereign letter-weight is just the thing.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PETER WILLIAMSON AND HIS PENNY POST.
To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I think the following (extracted from No. 24 of *Chambers' Miscellany of Useful and Entertaining Tracts*), will prove interesting to many of your readers.

"Peter Williamson, born at Hirnley, in the parish of

Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, about 1730, was, when ten years of age, abducted, and sold into bondage in the British American plantations in Pennsylvania. He was captured by Indians, lived with them, and at length effected his escape. After serving in the army, being taken prisoner by the French, and undergoing many hardships, he at length settled in Edinburgh, where he at first exhibited himself as an Indian warrior, and afterwards set up a tavern near the large hall where the Scottish Parliament had met. Here Peter sold copies of his book, containing a narrative of his life and adventures, as also of other tracts of a more aspiring kind, which he wrote from time to time upon the politics of the day; but the whole of which have long since passed into oblivion. Afterwards he removed to more spacious apartments in the neighbouring street, where his trade was less liable to be affected by times and seasons, and where his occasional exhibitions as a Delaware Indian furnished an attraction of considerable interest. But Peter was of too lively and ingenious a mind to be contented with such ordinary resources. Aided by the knowledge he had acquired in scenes more bustling than the Scottish capital then presented, he became a projector of schemes, locally new and unheard of; some of course visionary, but others practicable, and likely to be generally useful. About 1772 we find him commencing the biennial publication of an Edinburgh Directory, being the first compilation of the kind which had appeared in that city. The greatest of this singular person's projects was that of a *penny post* for the city and suburbs. More steady than projectors usually are, he had the address to establish and conduct this institution, much to the satisfaction of the community, and with considerable advantage to himself. It is gratifying to know that he was not unrecompensed for his contrivance of the penny post. When the institution was ultimately taken under the charge of government, a pension was bestowed upon Peter Williamson, who was thus satisfactorily provided for to the termination of his career. Indian Peter died on the 19th January 1799, in his sixty-eighth or sixty-ninth year."

In this number of the *Miscellany* there are many interesting particulars of Peter's life and adventures, but nothing further respecting his penny post. Cannot some of your numerous readers give us a little information upon the subject?

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Manchester.

GAMMA-BETA.

HEAD AND FIGURE OF LIBERTY STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged to Senor Mariano Pardo de Figueroa for his communication in the April number of your valuable magazine. The insertion in my paper of the current Spanish series is, I see, quite a mistake; and I must thank your Spanish correspondent for his valuable information concerning them.

Over the subscription of "Philatelist," the author of a letter in the same number of your magazine says that "the writer of 'Head and Figure of Liberty Stamps' omitted noticing the interesting impressions of Liberia." Now, the figure represented on the stamps for that colony is *not* the profile of Liberty; it is the figure of Britannia, wearing the Phrygian bonnet, and grasping the spear of Minerva. Although it is not to be desired that Britannia should ever stoop to wear a Republican emblem, yet in this instance, and also on the stamps of Trinidad, Barbados, and Mauritius, she does so. If, as has been cautiously hinted by some writers, the ornament on the

heads of the figures in the above-mentioned colonial stamps is not the cap of Liberty, or the Phrygian bonnet, what is it? Take the stamps of Liberia, and compare them with the emissions of Trinidad, Barbados, and the Britannia Mauritius. Look well at the caps surmounting the heads, and see what the difference is. You will find that just as the cap varies in some *minor* points in several stamps of the same issue, so will the whole issue of one of the already-mentioned colonies differ slightly from the stamps of another colony or of Liberia, and no more.

Compare also the other parts of the stamps; the figure in the beautiful stamps of Liberia is seated on a rock. So also is the figure in the Mauritius, Trinidad, and Barbados stamps. The rock is close to the sea, and in view of it in the Liberian series; so also is it in the colonies in question. A ship is sailing on the waters in the stamps for Liberia; so also there is one in the stamps of Trinidad, Mauritius, and Barbados.

The figure in the Liberian series is grasping a spear in her *right hand*; so also is the figure in our Britannia stamps.

The cap on the head of Liberia's figure is slightly bent downwards, and does not remain upright. So also the cap on the head of Britannia in the Barbados, Trinidad, and Mauritius stamps, instead of ending in an upright peak, hangs slightly down.

Turn to the volume for the year 1866 (page 20), where Fenton, in her article on "The Goddess represented on some of the Anglo-colonial Stamps," well describing Britannia's claim to the Liberian stamps, says, "In one of our old prints, Britannia, though wearing her helmet, has the cap of Liberty hoisted on one of the prongs of her trident, with LIBERTAS inscribed upon it; therefore to put it on and wear it appears only a suitable alteration, in compliment to the *peculiar antecedents of the settlement*."

Although the freed slave state of Liberia is neither under the protection of Great Britain, nor one of her colonies, yet, as a maritime nation, it is not very surprising that it should appropriate the figure of Britannia, until then impressed only upon British colonies and dependencies.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours obediently,

Saxmundham.

FREDERICK CAVELL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUISITOR.—1. We believe the only separate work now extant on forged stamps, is Mr Stourton's "Postage Stamp Forgeries," published at a shilling by Trübner & Co., London. An excellent series of papers on the same subject by Mr. W. D. Atlee, is now running through *The Philatelist*.—2. We can only suggest that you commission our publishers to obtain for you the first two volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* when opportunity offers, at a price to be fixed between you and them.—3. The stamp on the cover of the third volume is a fac-simile.—4. Your Italian is unquestionably a revenue stamp.—5. We doubt the genuineness of the lilac 2. c. Spanish of 1860.—The 4 c. 1865, with pink centre, is one of a series of proofs.—6. Your regret at having mutilated the Thurn and Taxis envelope is well founded.—7. We should recommend you to cut up your album, and put sheet after sheet in a basin of warm water, the "stamped" side upwards; and after a few minutes damping in this manner, you will be able to peel off the stamps without damaging them in the least; then lay them back upwards to dry, and they will thus retain their gum. You can afterwards arrange them in a Moens album, or in one of your own making.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Belgium.

(Continued from page 83.)

THE new series was not well received in Belgium. In the first place it was of foreign manufacture, and patriotic Belgians considered this a slight on their country; in the second place the designs were considered very poor, and the portrait anything but a likeness. Furthermore, the supplies printed in Belgium were far from being successful. The first batch of stamps was printed and perforated in London, and is distinguishable from the succeeding editions by its greater clearness and neatness. The first Brussels *tirage* would seem to have taken place immediately on the arrival of the dies, and all the values, except the 20 c., appeared in darker, thicker colours. The non-success of the Belgian printers seems to have crowned the dissatisfaction then felt, and one of the members of the parliament—M. L. Hymans—addressed an interpellation on the subject to the Minister of Public Works, to which the latter replied as follows:—

“M. Hymans says that the stamps recently put in circulation are as ugly as they possibly could be. Those previously in existence could be easily counterfeited. When it became necessary to carry out a reform, I addressed myself to one of the first Belgian artists, who submitted to me, some time since, a die with which he himself was not satisfied. I then opened a competition, with a prize of 5000 francs destined for the winner; a dozen artists took part in it, and, I must say, the designs submitted to me were perfectly ridiculous. After this second disappointment, I reflected that if it were necessary to apply successively to all the Belgian engravers, it might be years before I should finish, so I addressed myself at once to a foreign house, whose speciality is the manufacture of stamps. That house submitted to me a stamp which is *perfection* itself; not one of the members of the Chamber to whom I have shown it will contradict me, and the first artist whom I had consulted was also of opinion

that it was perfect. How is it that with this perfect die the administration has not been able to print irreproachable stamps? It is because the administration does not know how to print. This is the whole affair; we must learn to print, and then we shall have perfect stamps. As the die is destined to be replaced by the effigy of Leopold II., I do not think it is necessary to make any changes in it.”

The opinion of the minister as to the excellence of Messrs. De La Rue's design, will hardly be borne out by the judgment of philatelists accustomed to the critical comparison of the stamps of all countries. The engraving is good—fineness in execution is, in fact, Messrs. De La Rue's strong point—but as for the design as a whole, it has nothing either elegant or forcible in its composition; and those who ought to know best declare that the effigy is very far from being correct.

The difficulties connected with the printing of Messrs. De La Rue's types, at Brussels, far from disappearing with practice, appear to have augmented. The deterioration in the designs was rapid and marked, more especially in the 10 and 20 centimes; of these many impressions are mere blotches as compared with the first copies. These rough specimens are, to my mind, well worthy of collecting side by side with the fine ones, as they illustrate the history of the series. Furthermore, they are evidence of the Belgian printers' inability to produce surface-printed stamps. The higher values of this country are all surface printed, and whatever may be said of the designs, it cannot be denied that the impressions are uniformly satisfactory, notwithstanding that they are from dies which have been for years in use; if, therefore, the Belgians, from equally fine dies, cannot produce equally fine surface-printed copies, it must be their fault, and not the engravers'. So utter a failure was the 10 c. in their hands, that it became necessary to introduce some modifications into the design, consisting, no doubt, in a deepening of the lines, and probably the 20 c. was operated on in the same manner. Whilst noticing these stamps, it is also necessary to observe that one edition came out on a thick

paper, which might almost be termed card. The colours are as follows :

- 10 centimes dark grey.
- 20 „ dark blue, pale blue.
- 30 „ bistre.
- 40 „ carmine.
- 1 franc deep lilac.

After they had been some time in use they were replaced by thinner paper. At this last stage there appeared the 20 c. pearl-grey blue, which is so distinct from the others as well to deserve collection, even by beginners.

We now come to the newspaper stamps which accompanied this series, viz :—

- 1 centime grey.
- 2 „ blue.
- 5 „ brown.

The lowest value made its appearance on the 1st June, 1866, the 5 c. on the 1st September of the same year, and the 2 c. on the 1st January, 1867. All three stamps were designed by a M. Delpierre, and engraved by M. Dargent; the plate came from Antwerp; the paper, ink, &c., from Messrs. De La Rue's manufactory. Thus, whilst patronising native art, the government still managed to give a share in the business to their old and much abused London friends.

The design for each stamp differs slightly in detail from those of its companions, and it can hardly be questioned that the 2 c., with its light ground of horizontal lines, is the most successful of the trio; but it has been justly observed that there was no necessity for having three different types for stamps which were sufficiently distinguished from each other by their colours: by means of a transfer, in the usual manner, one design might easily have been made to serve for all the values.

The one cent had only been in use a couple of months when it began to make its appearance unperforated, and continued to do so until the end of the year 1866. The cause is rather a curious one, and worth relating. I have duly given the history of Messrs. Gouweloos' contract with the government, in 1863, whereby they undertook to perforate at least five hundred sheets per day, and the government promised to buy their machine if it were found to work satis-

factorily. On these terms the perforation was continued, but the government always drew back from the performance of its promise. In 1865, however, M. Gouweloos had some hope of its being at length realised, but this hope soon disappeared when they found that Messrs. De La Rue, after delivering the printing material for the series of stamps manufactured by them, had been consulted as to the price of a perforating machine. The reply was not long in coming; they asked 1500 francs (£60), against £96, the price of Messrs. Gouweloos' perforator. A thousand francs gained, and the preference given to a foreigner; was it not all profit? The order was sent to London, and when the machine arrived the committee met to examine it. After having done so they were forced to acknowledge themselves incompetent to decide on it. One of the members proposed that Monsieur Gouweloos should be called, and there and then he was sent for. As soon as he saw the machine he perceived that what Messrs. De La Rue had sent was only the machine whereon are fixed the cylindrical needles; but perforators there were none. Required to explain, Messrs. De La Rue alleged that they had properly executed their order, which was for a machine to perforate stamps; in effect, the object received from London was intended for that purpose, but it would be impossible to work it without first receiving all the perforators necessary to be used. For 8000 francs more (£320) the vendors were willing to complete it. This put a stop to negotiations; the committee had the machine always before their eyes to reproach them, and Messrs. Gouweloos, furious at having been played with, notified the government that they would thenceforth perforate only the minimum quantity of five hundred sheets, as stipulated in their contract. As the daily consumption was a thousand sheets, the administration had to decide on abandoning the perforation of one of the stamps, and their choice fell on the one-centime, which brought in less, and was more employed than all the other values.

Such is the history of the issue of the imperforate 1 centime, as related by the Belgian journal; and, of course, the lesson it

inculcates is, that one should beware of employing committees and foreigners. However, the government got out of the matter at last more creditably than might have been expected. It bought a machine whereby the 300 stamps comprising the sheet could be perforated in one single operation, whilst Messrs. Gouweloos' machine could only perforate one row of stamps at a time, on three sides.

The three newspaper stamps are found on thick card-like paper, like their (facially) more valuable brethren. Probably the supply of paper furnished by Messrs. De La Rue was exhausted, and after the dissatisfaction which their employment had caused, and the misunderstanding respecting the perforator, the government felt rather shy of entering into fresh contracts with them, preferring rather to use such materials as the country afforded.

In further conformity with the changes which occurred in the higher values, the 1, 2, and 5 c. made their appearance again on ordinary paper, and the two centimes was issued in the same peculiar shade as its companion the 20 c.

2 centime pearl-grey, blue.

On the 14th March, 1867, a royal decree was published, authorising the issue of 6 and 8 centime stamps, and they were accordingly prepared, but were never issued, as meanwhile a change had occurred in the ministry, and the incoming ruler of the department of public works was in favour of the issue of an entirely new series. The stamps were not engraved until long after the decree had appeared, and when the types were ready a committee was appointed to examine them. After a further delay they reported favourably on them; the striking off of a supply was about to commence—proofs, indeed, had already been printed—when the change above alluded to took place, and the designs were set aside.



The annexed engraving of the 6 c. reproduces the type of both the intended stamps, as they were identical, except in the ground pattern. It will be observed that they differ in some respects from the stamps actually issued, and prin-

cipally in the greater size of the corner figures.

We now come to the existing series. It was sanctioned by a royal decree of the 13th November, 1869, and two days afterwards the issue commenced, the 1 c. and 10 c. green being the first to make their appearance. Those now in use are as follows:—

10 centimes green.
20 „ blue.
30 „ amber.
40 „ carmine.
1 franc violet.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

1 centime green.
2 „ blue.
5 „ amber.
8 „ violet.

There was to have been a 6 centimes carmine; but, for some unexplained cause, it has not yet been issued. With the various designs my readers are sufficiently well acquainted to render lengthened comment on my part unnecessary. Belgian writers abuse the likeness; but without venturing an opinion on so delicate a point, we may be permitted to admire the *tout ensemble* of the types, and especially of the low values. The designs are by a Belgian artist, Monsieur H. Hendrickx, and they were engraved on wood by Monsieur A. Doms. The initials of both artist and engraver appear on the lower edge of the stamps; those of the former on the right, those of the latter on the left-hand side, in microscopical characters.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Up to the present time Belgium remains without envelopes, but so long since as 1864 it was rumoured that a series was about to be issued, and in 1867 a bill, or *projet de loi*, was brought in by the government, whereby (Art. 29) liberty was reserved to issue envelopes and bands, and put them on sale in the same way as adhesive stamps; and to fix the sum to be charged in excess of the facial value, to cover the cost of the paper and making. This was followed up by a royal decree of the 26th October, 1868, which says that stamped envelopes will be put at the disposal of the public, and leaves it to the Minister of Public Works to decide on the

type, colour, form, facial value, date of emission, and selling prices. The minister has not said anything about the matter during the three years which have now intervened, but, perhaps, like the famous parrot, he thinks the more.

POST CARDS.

If, however, the Belgian administration has shown great hesitation in the matter of envelopes, it has, on the other hand, accepted the Austrian innovation of post cards with commendable alacrity. On the 24th December, 1869, the minister was charged to see to their emission, and on the 1st January of the present year the official cards saw the light, after unofficial cards had been for some time previously used by the public. As they have been so recently issued, it is hardly necessary to describe them; suffice it to say that the design is a rich but complicated one, and that the use of these cards is somewhat restricted (see current volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 24).

UNPAID-LETTER STAMPS.

The vacillation of the Belgian postal authorities has nowhere been more conspicuously shown than in its treatment of the unpaid-letter stamp question. Orders



were given in 1869 for the preparation of a type for a stamp à percevoir, and in due time the annexed design was produced. Furthermore, and this is incomprehensible, it was approved of, and supplies were printed off and got ready for despatch to the different post-offices. On the 29th December, 1869, however, there came an order to destroy all these supplies; not on

the ground that the authorities had repented of their intention to put such an execrable design in circulation, but because it had been decided not to employ any unpaid-letter stamps at all. Immediately afterwards that decision must have been rescinded, for, in the following September, two unpaid-letter

stamps actually made their appearance, and are still in use. The design is really a charming one, and is, perhaps, sufficient in itself to explain the final resolution of the officials. The values and colours are—

10 centimes green.

20 „ blue.

Both are on white paper, and are perforated.

With the enumeration of these stamps we close our Belgian budget.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—In the June number a further instalment of the valuable article on the envelopes of Germany, and another of the "Spud Papers," appear. In the latter, Mr. Atlee points out that the Turkish impostors may be detected at a glance, from the fact that they are gummed on the face, and post-marked on the back. In another paper the editor sums up the merits of some half-a-dozen designs for a too-late stamp, which have been sent in, in competition for a prize offered by the publisher, and, with reason, argues that they demonstrate the tendency of philately to elevate art among its votaries. The designs are, it appears, composed either of the Queen's portrait, or the national arms; in this particular there seems to be some want of originality. Englishmen, in their stolid, patriotic spirit, never dream of adorning coins or stamps with anything else than the monarch's well-known countenance; or, perchance, some commonplace combination of our heraldic figures or emblems. Were we to follow the example of the United States, Newfoundland, or the Central American republics, by placing the portraits of famous men, or the representations of products, machines, or landscapes on our stamps, a great cry would surely arise, throughout the length and breadth of the land, that we were going to Americanise ourselves,—that we were becoming rabid republicans,—and it is very doubtful whether the postmaster-general, who could dare to sanction such an innovation, would long remain in office. Yet there are men and things innumerable in England deserving of such commemoration as a postage-stamp design would afford, and, in these economical days, the Parliament

which would refuse to vote a statue to a worthy man might cheaply immortalise him in defraying the cost of a stamp-die. However, a truce to anything like political allusions, and let us pass on to the July number of our Brighton contemporary, to notice the appearance therein of a very complete and well-written article on "Philatelic Literature in Spain," from the pen of Mr. Atlee, whence it is evident that stamp-collecting has taken firm root in the peninsula, and is likely to bring forth good fruit.

The American Journal of Philately.—The May number is remarkable chiefly for an article on a newly-discovered American local (the Newhaven 5 cents), from which we gave an extract last month; and in the June number appears the description of two more resuscitated stamps—the 5 and 10 cent of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dr. J. A. Petrie, who seems to make the discovery of locals his speciality, has been the means of bringing them to light; and, in order to do so, he had first of all to find out Miss Thom, daughter of the late Reuben T. Thom, postmaster of Fredericksburg in 1861. "On looking over her father's old papers, she found, *inter alia*, a quantity of these Fredericksburg stamps, of two values, five and ten cents, in an envelope, marked Richmond, Sept. 26, 1861, and franked by H. St. George Offut, chief of Contract Bureau." They are described as being "type-set, printed in sheets of twenty stamps, 5 by 4, and no two of which are alike, having slight typographical errors, and the rules separating the different parts of the stamp being of different lengths. The five cents are printed in dark dull blue, and the ten cents in a dirty dull red. All are on thin French-ruled note paper, and inscribed FREDERICKSBURG at top, R. S. THOM in a line underneath, the figures 5 or 10 in the different values underneath again, and at the foot, POST-OFFICE, VIRGINIA."

The opening chapter of an article, in another part of the number, entitled, "The History of the Confederate States Post-offices," leads us to anticipate that many other locals, hitherto unknown, will shortly be described in the pages of the New York journal. Mr. J. W. Scott, the writer, who

is a member of the firm of Scott & Co., has evidently taken great trouble to accumulate all the information obtainable respecting the Confederate stamps; and, in this first chapter of his history, he narrates his several attempts to get into communication with the southern postmasters. He first wrote to all his customers for particulars of any locals they might possess, or be acquainted with; this scheme proving fruitless, he interviewed the Mr. St. George Offut above referred to. His third effort was (and here we quote his own words) to print "an extra edition of *twenty thousand Journals*, each one of which was furnished with an extra four pages of advertisements, specially directed to postmasters, in large type, and offering them one dollar each for all the Confederate stamps they could get, other than those issued by the government. These were directed to every postmaster in the seceded states. These brought in a few of the common ten-cent stamps, accompanied by a note, requesting us to send the same number of dollars by return mail; but we did not succeed in getting a single local out of the lot. This was a loss of *over one thousand* dollars, the postage alone costing over four hundred." The italics are ours, and unless postmasters in the southern states are more numerous, and dollars in the northern states more plentiful, than we have any reason to suppose them to be, we must fain believe the italicised words represent typographical errors. If so, however, they are errors of a kind which detract *greatly* from the merit of an otherwise meritorious article; if not, then we can only say Mr. Scott would probably have got a better return for his thousand dollars by going south, and searching for himself; or, if he could not spare the time, he might have sent Dr. Morley.

After this experiment, which, if we accept the figures, cost over £200, and brought no result, an advertisement, identical in its terms, was inserted in every southern paper, offering 100 dollars each for "the stamps issued by the Confederate postmaster of this town in 1861." This, however, also proved a failure, and, finally, our author, "determined not to be beaten after the heavy loss

he had sustained," hit upon an original plan, which we have not the space to describe at length, but which has resulted in his "obtaining the dies of some of the stamps, and discovering a large quantity of another." The plan consisted in writing to the present postmasters of the southern cities, and enclosing a letter, to be handed by them to the gentlemen who were postmasters in 1861, or to their heirs. We shall now await the result of Mr. Scott's inquiries, and hope and believe they will justify the promises held forth in his initial chapter.

The American Coin and Stamp Review.—Of this paper two numbers only have as yet appeared, and they do not give much promise of that future excellence which we, nevertheless, trust it may attain. The experiment, however, of small four-page periodicals has so often been tried, and so often failed—both here and in America—that only success can justify a new attempt in this line.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide, another paper of the four-page class, which has reached its sixth number, has some original matter, and, together with the information that the editors propose to work diligently to make their journal as good as any, comes also the announcement that it will soon be enlarged, which is the most promising piece of news in the number.

The Timbrophilist.—We do not often go out of our way to notice this journal, happily the unique specimen in philatelic literature of its species; but in the sixth number occurs such an abominable and yet amusing piece of impudence, that we cannot refrain from referring to it. By way of preface we must first mention that in *Routledge's Magazine for Boys* there appeared, some time back, the following critique on Mr. H. Stafford Smith's *Mulready Album*:—

These albums are invaluable to collectors of postage stamps, and from their very reasonable price are within the reach of any of our boys whose inclinations lean in that direction. They are got up in a neat and elegant style, and, unlike too many articles of the same sort, do not fall to pieces after they have been opened half-a-dozen times. In fact, without occupying space unnecessarily to indulge in ecstasies, we can heartily say that they are everything that can be desired.

Now, it appears that Mr. C. A. Lyford, of unenviable notoriety, and the publisher of *The Timbrophilist*, has recently brought out a

stamp album of his own, and in the number of his paper before us it is described, and to the description is appended the following review:—

The Stamp-Collector's Magazine says these albums are invaluable to collectors of postage stamps, and from their very reasonable price are within the reach of any of our boys whose inclinations lean in that direction. They are got up in a neat and elegant style, and unlike too many articles of the same sort, do not fall to pieces after they have been opened half-a-dozen times. In fact, without occupying space unnecessarily to indulge in ecstasies, we can heartily say that they are everything that can be desired.

Our readers will observe that it is a verbatim copy of the notice of the *Mulready Album*, with our name prefixed to it. To use a hackneyed phrase, comment is unnecessary.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The principal feature of the May number is an interesting article on the Moldavian stamps giving many fresh and authentic details respecting them, which we hope to reproduce in a future number. There is also an extract from the too-famous Communist paper, *Le Père Duchesne*, blaming the Commune for allowing the stamps of the Versailles government to remain current in Paris. The greater portion of it is untranslatable, but the following extract will give an idea of its style, whilst at the same time showing that had its suggestions been followed, there would have been a series of Communist stamps. The person addressed by *Le Père Duchesne* is the postmaster-general Theisz, who, it may here be observed, is said to have paid with his life for his refusal to allow the post-office to be fired in the last days of May, by his federal friends. After alluding to the fact that letters from the provinces, prepaid by the stamps of the republic, were delivered without extra charge in the capital, *Le Père Duchesne* continues—

What say you to that, citizen delegate at the Post-office?

You say you won't have that, don't you?

You say that these rascally insurgents must be stopped from carrying on their little trade at our expense!

Well, then, my old friend, if you are of the same opinion as Father Duchesne, this is how you will proceed:

You will quietly order our brave Camelinat, who is our delegate at the Mint, to fabricate, without delay, new two-sou stamps.

With a new effigy; not in any way resembling the old. Something good.

A fine woman, with a smart look.

And with the air of a good patriot.

With a bright red bonnet on the head.

And, above all, let it be carefully done.

So that it may give one a good idea of our Commune.

When that shall be done you will give notice to the Parisians that all those who have any of the old stamps by them, must exchange them before a certain day, after which they will be worthless.

In that way the Versailles thieves will not be able to get us to carry their letters for nothing, which, in fact, is an infamy.

Seeing that people who are fighting each other ought at least to have sufficient politeness not to steal in that way.

But those fellows respect nothing.

In the June number of *Le Timbre-Poste* the Moldavian article is continued, and the publication of Dr. Magnus' valuable series of papers on envelopes is resumed, the reprints of the Hanover envelopes being treated of. They are, however, prefaced by an explanation of the causes which led to the interruption in their appearance; and as all that relates to this eminent philatelic writer is interesting, we will not apologise for extracting his narrative, albeit it incidentally treats of affairs which have been almost too long before the public.

Things were following their usual course when the sad events occurred which will mark in history the end of the year 1870 and the first portion of 1871. Our beloved country was invaded by the German hordes, and the siege of Paris commenced in September. Inhabiting one of the suburban communes, we had to enter by order, and hastily, into the great city. It was hardly the time, during the siege to give one's self up to the study of stamps, and, besides, how was it possible to consult a collection packed up pell-mell in three or four cases;—how was it possible to send copy to Brussels, when the balloons would only carry missives weighing four grammes?

How could one keep *au courant* of the science when he had to remain for five months without news even of those dearest to him? At length the capitulation of Paris, and the resumption of business, permitted us to return to our old habitation. It was in the midst of our new installation that M. Moens agreeably surprised us, and brought us our first provision (revictualment) of stamps and envelopes. A few days after we were about to sit down to work, but on the morrow the terrible insurrection of the 18th March broke out, which was to cover with blood and ruins the unfortunate department of the Seine. Placed at one of the gates of Paris,* on the road to one of the few bridges which had been preserved intact, our commune became one of the theatres of the civil war. During fifty days (April 2 to May 22) the cannon roared in our ears, demolishing our houses, and striking down its victims. Notwithstanding the gravity of the situation, we drew from philately the patience to bear our forced inaction during the too-protracted periods of detention which elapsed between the visits of the wounded. It has thus been, amid the rattle of musketry, and the shrill whistling of shells, that the following lines have been revised or composed. Now all is over,—the flag of the national assembly, and of honest men, floats over such of the monuments of Paris as have not been reduced to ashes by the torches of the miserable incendiaries. God guard us, dear *confrères*,

* Neuilly.

against the malefactors of the Commune, and the devotees of a universal republic.

The current number of our Belgian contemporary contains nothing of an extractable nature, but we are pleased to observe that it has reproduced the list of Russian Locals which appeared in our last impression.

ON INVERTED AND REVERSED WATERMARKS, &c.

BY G. W. B., M.

To the Rev. R. B. Earée's list of stamps with inverted watermarks, given in his paper in the last number of your magazine, I can add the following, selected from my own small collection.

- MAURITIUS, current issue, one penny brown, inverted cc. crown.
- TASMANIA, late issue, imperf., one penny, brown-red, inverted 1.
- VICTORIA, emblems, perf., twopence, slate, inverted two pence.
- DITTO, laureated head, perf., tenpence, red-brown, inverted 10.
- DITTO, laureated head, perf., ninepence, red-brown, inverted 10.
- NEW SOUTH WALES, registered, perf., blue and red, inverted 6.
- DITTO, large square, imperf., eightpence, gamboge, inverted 8.
- DITTO, large square, imperf., one shilling, pale reddish fawn, inverted 12.
- DITTO, large square, perf., fivepence, green, inverted 5.
- DITTO, large square, perf., sixpence, purple-lilac, inverted 6.
- DITTO, large square, perf., sixpence, watermarked in error, deep purple-lilac, inverted 5.
- DITTO, large square, perf., eightpence, maize, inverted 8.
- DITTO, diademed head, perf., threepence, yellowish green-inverted 3.

Besides these inverted watermarks, there are to be found some "reversed" ones. Of these I have the current twopenny South Australia, watermarked with crown and A.S., as well as the usual crown and S.A.; and the New Zealand penny and sixpence imperf., watermarked Z.N., in place of the ordinary N.Z. The registered New South Wales in the above list is reversed, as well as inverted. There are also the eightpence and five shilling New South Wales. If these reversed watermarks are to be collected along with the inverted, we shall probably find stamps showing four variations of the same watermark. We admit the Alsace with ordinary, and also with inverted network; and inverted water-

marks are no less interesting. I hardly think collectors in general will trouble about obtaining so many varieties; but to those who are anxious to show as many as possible, the collection of stamps with "inverted" and "reversed" watermarks, opens a larger field.

I have not seen it mentioned anywhere, that there are two distinct watermarks for the threepenny New South Wales. They are found both on the laureated and the diademed heads. One has the lower curl of the figure 3 projecting much further out in front than the top one; in the other the two ends of the curls are exactly opposite each other.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

HUNGARY.—Herewith we give an engraving of the new Hungarian journal stamp. It is of the value of one krenzer, and is printed on thick unwatermarked wove paper.

TURKEY.—The 10 paras adhesive is now issued in pale brown, surcharged with black inscription, and with *pricked* perforations, and the Belgian journal notices a 2 piastre vermillion similarly perforated.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A proposal was made in the House of Commons last month, that its postmaster should be empowered to use a handstamp to mark prepayment of the members' letters, that the members may be saved the trouble of sticking adhesive stamps on them.

CEYLON.—One of our correspondents has sent us a used halfpenny stamp of a pink colour. It is of the ordinary type, is perforated, and shows no signs of having been chemically changed; we therefore presume that a new emission has taken place.

BARBADOS.—We have received from our old correspondent, Mr. Daniels, a specimen of the current blue stamp, star watermarked; and he informs us that the whole series with this watermark was issued several months since. The blue is of a peculiar dull slate tint, and probably the other values will be

found to vary in colour from their predecessors.

UNITED STATES.—It turns out that the head on the new seven-cent stamp is that of the late Mr. Edwin M. Stanton, who was secretary of war during the administration of President Lincoln, and took a leading part in the conduct of the war with the southern states.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—We have been favoured by one of our subscribers with a view of a handstamped envelope from these distant islands. It consists simply of the words FALKLAND PAID ISLANDS, in three lines, enclosed in a single-line oblong frame, as in annexed representation. This very simple design is handstamped on the right-hand corner of the envelope. The source from which we received notice of this novelty permits of our guaranteeing its authenticity.

FINLAND.—New envelopes have at length appeared for this province. The design is that of the existing adhesive series, and the value is expressed in pennia.

20 pennia	blue.
40 "	rose.

SPAIN.—The intelligence which arrives respecting the new stamps is very conflicting. The latest reaches us from a Madrid correspondent, and is to the effect that they are far from being on the point of emission. Several drawings have been printed, but the type has not been designated as yet.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Our little American contemporary, *The Stamp-Collector's Guide*, says, "This province is about to present us with a completely new set of stamps, similar in design to the present issue, but with value expressed in *cents* in place of *pence*. The change will be occasioned by the adoption of the decimal currency."

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—From the same source we learn that the five-cent stamp of these islands has been withdrawn from sale; its use having been advertised to continue only until the 1st May of this year. The three new stamps recently noticed were designed by Thomas G. Thrum, Esq., and made by the National Bank Note Company.

BRAZIL.—Still borrowing from our neigh-

hours across the water, we come on the following interesting item in *The American Journal of Philately*. "We are pleased to note a very beautiful addition to the postage stamps of this country. The design consists of the head of the present emperor in a very handsome oval frame of engine-turned work; this is printed in green; the outer frame is printed in a rich violet. The value is 300 reis. From the appearance of this stamp we are led to expect a new set, as it is not likely the government would employ such a handsome stamp for this value, when the higher value is so much plainer. The new comer is from the *atelier* of the Continental Bank Note Company; the old set, and also the revenues, are the work of the American Bank Note Company."

We do not quite agree with our contemporary as to the probability of the new value being the forerunner of a new set, seeing that the plates of the present very striking series show no sign of deterioration. The simple fact seems to us to be, that the additional value is found to be wanted, and has been printed in two colours, because the existing one-colour stamps have used up all the brighter hues. It must also be borne in mind that there has long been a 300 reis envelope in circulation.

ROMAN STATES.—A correspondent sends us a circular stamp, the outer edge scalloped, with the papal tiara and keys in the centre, surrounded by the inscription, BOLLO STRAORDINARIO (ROMA); the whole struck in black ink on white paper, which looks like that of a journal. A similar stamp is noticed in *The Philatelist* as in use in Belgium; it is round, bears the crowned Belgian lion in the centre, and is inscribed TIMBRE A L'EXTRAORDINAIRE (BRABANT). This we are familiar with ourselves, and have seen it impressed on newspapers. Are these two stamps entitled to collection as postals? There is a Tuscan stamp of the same family, also round, and inscribed BOLLO STRAORDINARIO PER LE POSTE, with the value—2 SOLDI—in the centre, which is said to have been a *frank* stamp used in the post-office, and not obliterated by any defacing mark; and it has been, consequently, accepted and catalogued as a postage stamp. It is desirable to know whether

the others, above noticed, are put to the same use, and do, in fact, represent postage paid; if so, they would become collectable, though at best they can only be regarded as hybrids. It will be noticed that the Tuscan bears a reference to the post, and has a *facial* value, whilst the others have not.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—We have seen a specimen of the round local post hand-impressed journal stamps, on coloured paper, on which the letters P. L. are in roman, instead of block letters.

UNITED STATES.—*New York*.—There is in New York a special-message post still in existence, and conducted by a Mr. Crosby. Its business consists in the distribution of "price lists, circulars, hand-bills, pamphlets, insurance notices, business, wedding, and invitation cards." It has been established six years, and has hitherto used an adhesive stamp which bears within an oblong oval the inscription, CROSBY'S SPECIAL MESSAGE POST, and address, in pink letters on a white ground. The remainder of a small oblong rectangle is completed by ornamentation of the same colour. This adhesive, fixed on a yellow envelope, is postmarked by an oblong oval hand-stamp, inscribed as above, with the addition of N. Y. It is now about to be superseded by a stamp designed and engraved by the publishers of *The American Journal of Philately*, and which has the figure 2 in a shield, CROSBY'S above, on waved labels, CITY POST on right and on left sides, and 10, WM. SR. below. The whole in an upright rectangle. They are printed in sheets of 25, and are unperforated; the colour is bright carmine. *The American Journal of Philately*, in a way tending to mislead, says they will pay "the postage on letters and circulars delivered anywhere in the city." In fact, the stamp must be put on a level with the emissions of our own circular delivery companies, and cannot be considered of any great importance from a philatelic point of view.

JAPAN.—According to the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, a paper published at Leipzig, there is actually a probability of stamps being issued for the Japanese empire. It states that Messrs. H. Engel & Son have obtained the contract, and are engaged in preparing

a supply. We give this intelligence *sous toutes reserves*.

UNITED STATES LOCALS.—We, last month, gave an extract from an American paper, describing a 5 cents New Haven, Conn., and have now to refer our readers to the article in the present number on "Our Contemporaries" for a description of two more locals—the 5 and 10 cent of Fredericksburg, Virginia, issued by the postmaster of that town during the war of secession.

ANGOLA.—Our Belgian contemporary announces that the 25 reis is no longer flesh coloured, but bright vermilion. The same authority furnishes us with the two following items, which we translate textually.

BAVARIA.—We have just received the 6 and 12 kr., perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and an unpaid letter stamp of usual type, with the same perforation, value 1 kr., and printed in black on white. They all have the watermark reproduced in our hundredth number.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We have received a penny envelope on white laid paper, bearing a stamp identical in type with the adhesive of same value. The stamp is struck on right upper corner, and the envelope is of the ordinary shape. The flap bears a design which we shall reproduce next month.

One penny flesh.

FRANCE.—The *projet de loi* submitted to the National Assembly by the French finance minister, contained a proposition to raise the rate of postage on home letters (single weight) from 20 to 25 centimes. As our readers are aware, the minister has, in effect, withdrawn his budget; and the very retrograde measure above referred to, which would have led to the recal of the old 25 c. blue stamp of the republic, will probably not be insisted on. It is a pity the minister has not the good sense to take a leaf out of our book, and, by reducing the present rate by half, treble or quadruple the number of letters. Taking into account the new one-ounce rate, which will shortly come into force in this country, the French rate for home letters will be six times higher than ours; for twopence, our postmaster will carry a letter weighing 60 grammes, and for the same price, the French postmaster will only carry one of 10 grammes.

There is another proposal on the tapis which may lead to the emission of a 3 centime stamp. It is proposed to separate the duty on journals from the postage, instead of representing both as at present by one stamp, and the postage alone would be at the rate of 3 centimes. Again, it having been proposed that newspapers should be sent in packages by rail at a charge of 40 centimes per kilogramme ($3\frac{1}{2}$ ounces), a counter suggestion has been made that the rate should be one franc, the former rate being too low, and this if acted on, as it probably will be, would necessitate the reissue of the 1 franc republic.

The unperforated republic are getting daily rarer; it is quite a chance to meet with even a 20 centime. The 20 c. perforated is showing signs of deterioration. The ground work in the angles is disappearing, and we have met with several copies in which it is barely visible. The error in the setting up of the sheet of the 20 c., appears to have been rectified.

AUSTRIA.—*Danubian Steam Navigation Company*.—The colour of the 10 soldi has been altered from lilac to orange-red.

A BATCH OF NOVELTIES.

COMMUNICATED AND DESCRIBED BY
EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

DECCAN.—An entirely new series is before us, and, so far, quite undescribed, of which we annex an engraving of the 8 annas. If the reader will turn to our April impression, an engraving will be seen, on page 57, of a half-anna stamp, first chronicled by *The Philatelist* of the preceding month. On the appearance of that notice, inquiries were made in India, and through the courtesy of an officer at Hyderabad, a proof set was obtained, from which the following descriptions are taken. Since then the publishers have received a couple of the actual stamps—4 annas slate, and 8 annas brown; and, in addition, a 2 annas yellow-green of the "skeleton" type, on page 57. The proof set received is printed on stout toned paper;

some are imperforate; others perforated 12; all the values are alike in size and shape, and resemble the half anna first engraved, but the corners and centres are filled in with delicate tracery; and the general appearance is singularly good, the engraving being fine, and the colours well chosen; at least on the proof set.

The first adhesive stamp known to be used in the Deccan is the oblong one engraved at page 90 of the 1870 volume. Of this stamp a proof was sent marked "obsolete post stamp," in writing; it has always been given as three quarters of an anna; but, on examination, it bears, in Persian characters, YAK ANNA, the same as the 1 anna Cashmere and 1 anna of the new rectangular series. It also clearly bears the date 1283 (Hegira), as do the half and one-anna Cashmere; this, I believe, is our 1866, somewhat earlier than we are prepared to expect, taking into consideration that it was not chronicled until January of last year. The engraving in the last volume is very fairly accurate; the date lies between the two large transverse characters (which are clearly elongated for appearance sake), two to left, two to right; those to left can be identified in our engraving as 12, by comparing with the numerals 1 and 2 on the Turkish 1 and 2 piastre stamps. The other characters are not right; the first should resemble an inverted V (the Arabic 8), the second should be like the Arabic 2, with another loop added to form 3. The value is in centre at base, and can be identified by comparing the original with the 1 anna Cashmere (see *The Philatelist*, vol. ii., p. 135). The engraving is not quite accurate, but still the value can be recognised when one knows what to search after. This obsolete Deccan was engraved in London, and printed in sheets of one hundred-and-sixty stamps, perforated twelve; colour, olive-green on dull, slightly-toned paper. The proof is carmine on cardboard.

The set of which we have proofs may be described as follows: coloured impression, on toned paper; rectangular; there are:—

PROOFS OF CURRENT SET.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, claret-red. Imperforate.
- 1 anna, deep lilac. Perf. 12.
- 2 annas, deep green. Imperforate.

- 3 annas yellow. Perf. 12.
- 4 " rich blue. Imperforate.
- 8 " slate. Ditto
- 12 " brown. Perf. 12.

The two emitted stamps we have seen are:—

- 4 annas, slate. } Perf. 12, on dull white paper.
- 8 " brown. }

In each value the frame and groundwork differ slightly; the centre inscription (in Persian characters) is on a different ground in each, viz.:—

- $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, engine turned.
- 1 anna, horizontal lines.
- 2 annas, waved ditto.
- 3 " plain
- 4 " concentric rings.
- 8 " waved ditto.
- 12 " horizontal net.

The edge of the circle and the rectangular edge of the stamp match in the same values, though unlike in each one; the variations being very chaste, though slight. It will be observed from our engraving, that there are four equal-sized labels round the centre, bearing the value in different characters; the lower ones we can all understand; the left one being English, the right being Persian, in full, and on $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4, and 8, resembling the values on the like denominations of Cashmere. The upper labels evidently bear the value in two different dialects; that to the left resembling Sanscrit in its characters, and so we will term it, though inaccurately (for Sanscrit is not a language now written, but bears the relation to the spoken dialects that the classical languages of Europe do to the present spoken tongues); the other (right hand) label, which we will term the dialect, contains a group of signs, of which two are constant in each value, but appear more like fancy characters than anything else.

On the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 anna, or singular values, in the Persian and the dialect, the same characters are used for *anna*, as in the plural (2, 3, 4, 8, and 12) for *annas*; i.e., there is no distinction between singular and plural: in the English and what we term the Sanscrit, there is the distinction; in the Sanscrit and dialect, the same characters represent $\frac{1}{2}$, 3, and 4, in each value; and the same method of forming the double 12 is used in both. The central Persian inscription is exactly alike in each one; and the date 1286 is clear; the English at top, and

Persian in lowest curved label, are alike in each value.

We will now notice the skeleton, or outlined and obsolete series. The only specimens we have seen were on rather thin paper, slightly toned, perforated 12.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, brown.

$\frac{1}{2}$ annas, yellow-green

A whole set undoubtedly exists, as the President of the Philatelic Society informs us that he has seen a series of several values in the possession of Mr. Hayns, whose absence in Egypt alone prevents our getting the description of the series. As far as the half and two annas are concerned, the four labels round centre, and the top and bottom labels, are simply outlined, filled in with characters, all enclosed in a single-lined frame; and there we have the classic Deccan stamp! The central characters are the same as on the current stamps, and the date is also 1286; this gives the same year for two distinct emissions. Can it be that the skeleton set was provisional, and the first crude idea for the very handsome current set? Not at all unlikely. The disposition of the bottom characters differ, but they are the same in each type.

In the half-anna "skeleton" the Sanscrit "half" and dialect "half" are dissimilar, and also differ from the more finished type; in the skeleton half and two annas, the last characters in the dialect are not like those in the finished type, but seem more like actual characters, and less like fancy ornaments—the form which we have pointed out as indicative of their appearance on this current or finished set. Next month we hope to give further particulars.

GUADALAJARA.—The already extensive list of varieties has been extended by the discovery of a few new specimens of those peculiarly perforated monstrosities on which we all place such value, and which so few of us can obtain. The specimens are—

1 real green, 1868, *bâtonné* (thinnish).

2 reales rose, 1868, " (thicker).

4 reales blue, 1867, " (thin).

4 reales blue, 1867, *quadrillé* (thin).

1 peso lilac, 1867, " (thin).

The rarity is 4 reales on *bâtonné*, and next is the *peso* (*un*, not the unattainable *Un*); of 2 reales, also, very few specimens exist, by

which we mean to say that a dozen will cover the quantity; the *peso* is only known in six copies, the 4 reales *bâtonné* is only known in two. These perforated things were evidently stamped out with a punch, as wanted, for we have had them in part sheets, some stamped out, some not touched.

"FIJI TIMES EXPRESS."—The set mentioned by *The Philatelist* (see page 106 of the July number) should read, one penny, threepence, sixpence, and one shilling, on *quadrillé* paper (*i.e.*, paper watermarked by crossed vertical and horizontal lines, forming small squares), black impressions perforated by roulette on line of colour (*i.e.*, black), the impressions being each black.

"KOORSHEDJAH."—*The Philatelist* seems to say that this is not a postal, but simply a private seal; and also seems to have only just discovered that Koorshedjah is the name of the Nawab, though not of any specific place. A reference to page 31 of our 1870 volume may convince the editor of *The Philatelist* that his first hypothesis is not quite correct, and that the second piece of information is not quite so "astounding" as at first sight appears. We believe that it may safely be asserted, that the majority of the few copies which have been for sale, have been offered and bought as "the frank stamp of H. H. the Nawab Koorshedjah." We have had them sent upon letters so recently as January of the present year, when, if they were not postage stamps, or had no franking power, the letters would have required the presence of the current stamps for the Deccan, but there was nothing except the current Indian, and there was no extra postage to be paid here, which renders it quite certain that the stamp "Koorshedjah" prepaid the letter through H. H.'s dominions, our Indian stamps doing the rest, even as it may be observed upon Cashmerian letters unto this day.

UNITED STATES PERIODICAL STAMPS.—Has it been observed that two varieties exist of these stamps? In one, of which there exists the set of three values, there is an outer ground of colour extending from stamp to stamp; in the other there is no outer ground or border, there being a blank space as in all other stamps. These latter are of a much darker blue than the others.

FINLAND.—The current 10 pen. amber is now printed upon a thinnish wove paper, in place of being laid vertically. The two stamps of the 1856 issue, which have recently been chronicled, viz., 5 and 10 kop. on blue paper, are found on two varieties of paper, at least the 10 kopec—on ordinary thin blue, and on blue *pelure*; they belong to the type without any pearl in the large open end of the horns.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—There are sundry varieties of the perforations of the stamps in use, showing various combinations of different sorts, and latterly the size of the perforation has been altered from 12 and 13 to $10\frac{1}{2}$. The following is a list of the varieties known to us. "M." stands for *machine* perforated; "Ro." for roulette, as usual.

STAR WATERMARK.

I.—M. 12—13 compound, top and bottom; Ro. at sides

- 1 penny dark green.
- „ grey-green.
- „ deep rich green, v. to
- „ light yellow-green.
- 4 pence, light and dark shades.
- 6 pence, light blue, v. on cartridge paper.
- „ very dark blue, on ordinary paper.
- 10 pence, yellow, v.
- 1 shilling, claret-brown.
- „ warm brown.

II.—M. 12—13 compound, all four sides.

- 1 penny dark green.
- „ deep rich green.
- 2 pence, orange (old type).
- 4 pence, dark lilac.
- „ dark violet.
- 6 pence, pale blue, v. to
- „ bright blue.
- 1 shilling, puce-brown, v. to
- „ rich warm brown.
- 2 shillings, light rose.
- „ dark carmine.

III.—M. $10\frac{1}{2}$, top and bottom, compound 12—13 at sides.

- 1 penny bright green.

IV.—M. $10\frac{1}{2}$ all sides.

- 1 penny, bright green.
- 6 pence, dark blue.
- 1 shilling, warm brown.

CROWN AND S. A. WATERMARK.

I.—M. 12—13 compound, all sides.

- 10 pence, pale yellow.

II.—M. $10\frac{1}{2}$ at top and bottom; Ro. at sides.

- 2 pence, light red (present type).

III.—M. $10\frac{1}{2}$, all sides.

- 2 pence, light red (present type).

With roulette all sides, we find the twopence,

present type, in various shades, first with crown and S. A. watermark and then the star, but the crown has been again reverted to. The tenpence star, rouletted all sides, exists with surcharging in black and in blue. On the provisional blue threepence the surcharging is in crimson and in black. Next month we will revert to this value, as our notes on its variations are incomplete. The crown and S. A. tenpence, perforated 12—13, is scarce, and the rouletted tenpence, with black surcharging, also seems uncommon.

PARAGUAY.—We have received the following information respecting the three stamps for this republic, which we translate for the benefit of our readers:—

In Calle de la Ribera, the capital of Paraguay, there is a postal administration under the care of a citizen of the Argentine Republic. There are in use, for prepayment of letters within the republic of Paraguay, and for foreign letters as well, three stamps, value 1, 2, and 3 reales, rose, blue, and black. They are not issued by decree, but verbal instructions and a provisional regulation have been given by the government to the person in charge of that administration, and on whom they are content to rely for the regularity of their postal service.

The arrangement is somewhat like that formerly adopted in Egypt, where the *Posta Europea* of Mr. Chini was the first administration to issue stamps (see vol. vi., p. 119, of this magazine). During the Paraguayan war, two envelopes were in use by the Brazilian navy, which may be described as follows:—

1st.—A plain transverse oval, inscribed, in Roman capitals, ESQUADRA BLOQUEDORA A. O. PARAGUAY, impressed in blue or black, on various envelopes.

2nd.—A plain rectangle, with rounded corners, contains the Brazilian arms on shield; under a crown, and supported by branches, FORÇA NAVAL DO BRAZIL NO PARAGUAY, disposed above and below in curved line, impressed in blue, on various envelopes.

THE GERMAN EAGLE.—The form of the Imperial German Eagle, as it is henceforth to figure in the arms of the Empire, and on stamps and official seals, has been determined by the Federal Council. According to the *German Correspondent*, it is to be the heraldic eagle with the head turned to the right, above which the Imperial crown will appear to hover. The shield on the eagle's breast will display the heraldic Prussian eagle, each wing containing six broad and five narrow feathers; the claws will be without the insignia they usually seem to grasp, and the tail in heraldic delineation.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

II.

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST (*continued*).

As there are so many varieties of Boyd's labels, I think that a few brief remarks upon the best forgeries may be useful, more particularly to tyros.

The finest counterfeits are in imitation of the fourth type, and were manufactured upon this side of the water. They were usually sold in sets of six values (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 cents), each one of which was printed both in and upon several colours, including those of the originals. In the genuine, the point of the right wing, and almost the whole side of the left wing, touch the border; whereas, in the impositions, neither of the pinions go against the frame. The dots before POST, and after denomination of value, are in the middle of the inscribed band upon the archetype; in the forgery the full stop after CENT [s] follows in the ordinary way.

There are a pair of rather deceptive counterfeits, of American extraction, which we have known for some years, and which are at once condemned by possessing shaded dots, instead of solid ones, before POST and after CENTS. The other impostors are not worth troubling about, being too poor to deceive anyone.

I have discovered that some copies of the fourth-type 1 cent lack the dot after EXPRESS; but whether this was due to the deterioration of the die, or was the effect of design, I cannot say; most probably the former is the true cause. Anyhow, this variety deserves to be added to the list.

I must also add two rarities which exist in the Ph. collection, and which are undoubtedly genuine:

TYPE I. (c). 2 cent gold on orange.

„ V. 2 cent orange on white.

In the same priceless collection is a splendid proof of the second type in black, and also one of type I. (a) in the same colour.

To the envelopes of type II. (a) there must be added a

2 cent on yellow.

The current (b) die is also impressed upon blue.

From a careful study of the embossed envelopes, I have arrived at the conclusion that the only ones issued to the public were Vermilion on saffron.

Mazarine blue on creamy yellow.

Sky-blue „ „

with *vergeures* always oblique.

The other papers were supplied to order, after the manner of our higher-priced envelopes.

AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY.

This company was started either at the end of 1843, or early in the following year, for the conveyance of letters between Philadelphia and New York, the principal office being in the former city. It was a branch of the firm carrying between Boston and New York, under the title of Hale & Co.

Two stamps were issued, both very finely engraved upon steel, the rarer being of the following design:—

Within a square frame is a circle containing the national eagle and motto; THE AMERICAN above, LETTER MAIL CO. below; the angles being filled in with plain wedge-shaped figures; at foot, in minute italics, *Engraved by W. L. Ormsby*. Printed in black upon thin white paper, with a slightly bluish tinge. No reprints or forgeries are known of this stamp, but an essay in drab is sometimes catalogued; it is probably a myth. The other label is the well-known oblong, inscribed with name of company above, and at foot 20 FOR A DOLLAR. In the centre is an eagle, with outstretched wings, standing on a rock: at the angles, leaves and flourishes. This stamp has not been reprinted, but a well executed counterfeit has been made, after the manner of the genuine. The most noticeable points of difference are as follows: The clouds in the original are represented by wavy lines, whereas the lines are straight and dotted upon the imitation. In the latter, the eagle's left wing contains a prominent break in the shading; the wings are shaded throughout upon the genuine. There is a straight line running through each of the corner ornaments upon the real stamps; upon the sham they are scarcely discernible. The counterfeits are printed upon

a dull white paper, and have a new look about them; the genuine are in black, upon paper like that used for the larger stamp, and also upon whiter paper, of a stronger texture.

From the difficulty in obtaining locals upon the packets which they franked, I have not been able to discover which of the two stamps was first emitted, but am inclined to think that they were brought out simultaneously; probably the larger stamp was of greater or less value than the other. I only offer this as a conjecture, not having been able to find out the facial worth of the first-named label.

Mr. Scott states that the large stamp was used in 1844, which seems from all accounts to have been either the first or second year of the company's existence. I possess a portion of a letter, addressed to New York, in February, 1845, franked by the large label, and another wrapper, with the date of February, 1844, prepaid by the smaller stamp. Therefore, as the latter was certainly used after 1845, I think my theory of a contemporary issue will hold good.

Both stamps are generally obliterated by pen-strokes or initials, but sometimes an undecipherable vermilion smudge is used. In New York the letters were surcharged with a large red transverse oval impression, giving the name of the company, and their office—50, Wall street.

It may be as well to add that the price of the smaller stamps was 5 cents each, retail, or 4 cents, wholesale, for any number under twenty.

WYMAN'S EXPRESS.

In 1844, a daily service of messengers was organised by Mr. W. Wyman, of Boston, to run between that city and New York. Only one stamp was issued, of which the following is a description:—

In the centre a locomotive, with car, surrounded by a thin oval frame, above which is 8, COURT ST. and 3, WALL ST., and below 20 STAMPS FOR ONE DOLLAR. Along the top of the stamp, W. WYMAN, and at the upper angles flower buds. The bottom is filled by two large bell-shaped buds, joined by a smaller one in the centre. Printed from steel, in black, upon white paper.

There is a very passable forgery, but it may be detected by the following differences

between it and the original. In the latter, the buffer of the engine is at some little distance from the side of the oval; it almost touches it in the imposition. The points of the flower in the left-hand upper corner should be at equal distances from the frame, but the forgery has the lower one nearly against the border line.

U. S. MAIL, PREPAID.

The stamps with the above inscription are so simple in design and execution that they present great temptation to forgers. It is only by a minutely descriptive account of the originals that the counterfeits can be detected. Surrounding a circle, inscribed ONE CENT, are the words U. S. MAIL, PREPAID, within a single-lined circular frame, $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. in diameter.

Genuine.—The right side of the U is very fine; between this letter and the next is a full stop. The s is narrow, with a much thinner stroke at foot than above; the stop following is considerably nearer to M than to the initial preceding it. A in MAIL is narrow and pointed, and the I has a very short head-stroke. In PREPAID the R is at some little distance from the E, and the top of the A is brought to a point. Letters in inscription of value are small and uniform; those in each word being at equal distances from each other. A perpendicular line drawn from the first stroke of M would come through the dot at foot; if another line were commenced at the foot of the primary stroke of the upper A, it would run through the similar portion of the lower A. If, to vary the monotony, the stamp is gauged horizontally, it will be found that the U is above the line of L.

Forgeries.—I only know of two forgeries, but others probably exist. In the commonest there is no stop after U, and the lettering is thicker, although not extraordinarily so. s is almost joined to the dot following it, and the lower dot is in a direct line with the centre of the M.

The counterfeits are upon papers of many hues; the genuine upon the following only:
Black on thick glazed yellow paper.

„	„	creamy-yellow unglazed paper.	
„	„	buff	„
„	„	rose	„

By unglazed, I mean paper stained through-out, instead of simply surface-coloured, as is the first-noted stamp.

The obliteration was usually a red circular impression.

LIVINGSTON, WELLS, AND POMEROY'S EXPRESS.

I only know of one label issued by this firm, and that is of such excessive rarity, that it has not been counterfeited. It was emitted in 1845, and could have had but a short existence.

Within an oblong frame, composed of small diamond ornaments, is the name of the company, in three lines. Below this are an equal number of lines, giving the company's chief offices:—NO. 2 WALL ST. N. YORK. 5 EXCHANGE, ALBANY. 1 EXCHANGE ST., BUFFALO. Printed in black, upon glazed vermilion paper.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PRINCE BISMARCK has proposed the calling of an International Postal Conference, with a view to the establishment of uniform postal rates throughout Europe. The proposal has been generally accepted; and all the powers, except France, will be represented at the Conference, which is to take place at Berlin.

A QUERY.—*The Times* says, "The order for setting fire to the Hotel de Ville has been found on a National Guard of the Commune, now a prisoner at Versailles. It is covered with stamps; some of them blue, and others red." Can any one say what kind of stamps they were?

[Most probably hand-stamps. One knows the passion the French have for stamping everything with an official-looking stamp.—Ed.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANOTHER MONTEVIDEAN ERROR.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I have not seen noticed anywhere the existence of a variety of the 5 c. large figure Uruguay. I have a copy with the c of the word CENTECIMOS, on the lower part of the figure, omitted; so that it reads ENTECIMOS; and to-day I saw another copy with the same error.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Liverpool.

ALFRED O. BELL.

[This is a well-known error, and is catalogued for sale by some of the dealers.—Ed.]

DATES OF ISSUE OF VICTORIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—A gentleman has just given me a dozen or so of the early Victorian stamps; they were sent over by his brother, who has sent many before, and has lived in Melbourne for many years. The reason for my troubling you with this is, that they were on tissue paper as sent over; some had the dates in pencil at the

back of the stamp, and some had it on the paper underneath—I suppose the date of the letter or papers they came off. I have sent a list of the dated ones, as the dates of two of them are earlier than is given in Gray's last catalogue.

HALF-LENGTH UNPERFORATED.

One penny rose, 1855.

One penny vermilion, 1856.

POSTAGE STAMP UNPERFORATED.

Sixpence orange, 1851.

EMBLEMS, PLAIN PAPER, ROULETTE, PERF.

One penny emerald green, 1858 in pencil at back, and 1857 to '58, underneath.

FIGURES AT SIDES.

Fourpence rose, no watermark, 1862.

Fourpence rose, watermark figure of value, 1862.

Both are exactly the same shade; about a middle tint.

Yours truly,

Norwich.

J. B. B.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe.—We do not know of what kind were the stamps with which the order to burn the Hotel de Ville, of Paris, was covered.

J. B. B., Norwich.—We have no doubt your Turkish stamp is genuine—The impressed Roman stamp, with reclining figure, we cannot recognise. The other we notice in our article on new issues.

E. F. PEEL, Dewsbury.—We do mean to say that all the values of the French republic stamps of 1871, perforated or unperforated, are comparatively hard to get; and that, consequently, the remaining stock of imperial stamps is being used up.

G. C., Fecamp.—This correspondent, under date 31st May, sends us as novelties three specimens of the Alsace and Lorraine stamps, issued last August, and requests us to insert a description of them in our next! According to him, they were issued when the Prussian army occupied Rouen.

R. W. P., Cardiff.—Your St. Helena, Newfoundland, St. Lucia, Liberia, red Costa Rica, blue Montevideo, and the three British Guiana, with the inscription reading *Damus Relinquimus Vicissim*, are forgeries.—The best album for a collector who purposes going fully into philately is Moens'.

G. W. B., M.—We are obliged for your having called our attention to the Newfoundland one cent from fresh die, and the new perforation of the Turkish.—Your No. 3 is watermarked cc. and crown, and the words CROWN COLONIES run below in large lettering. On your stamp you see a piece of the O.—No. 4 is a genuine stamp. We know of two varieties of engraving; probably more exist.—Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 9, are genuine: the variations of these are well known; but No. 8 is forged.

M. S. C., Scorton.—Your letter has unfortunately been overlooked; pray excuse the neglect, and permit us now to reply to your questions. 1, 2. Oppen's album is a good one, and the catalogue which accompanies it is trustworthy.—3. You had better put your Mulready envelope in the centre of a page, by itself, if there is not a special place for it.—4. The word "essay," in a philatelic sense, signifies a design for a postage stamp, submitted for acceptance to the postal authorities, but rejected by them.—5. You can subscribe to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for a portion of the year.—6. Our publishers can supply all the volumes except the first two.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

IN the June number of *The American Journal of Philately* is the commencement of a complete "History of the Confederate States Post Office," which must prove a most valuable and reliable work, if the accounts given by Mr. Scott of the immense correspondence, and the lavish expenditure incurred by him in pursuit of materials, be carefully considered. That the work will be valuable and reliable is as it should be, and its advent, we may trust, will mark the commencement of a new epoch in the management of American philatelic magazines, and not before it is time.

American editors should know their own business best, and the style of composition most congenial to their subscribers; but no paper conducted in England, unless it were avowedly a parody on philately, could imitate our American cousins with any hope of encouragement. What can we term a laborious enumeration of United States revenue stamps, month by month, but a parody on philately proper? *The American Journal of Philately* recently signified its intention of making us Europeans jealous of the wonderful items of intelligence which they might, could, would, or should publish, anent the stamps of "their own, their native land." In the face of this determination, I have pondered over "A Descriptive List of all Revenue Stamps" with something of the feeling that I was perusing advertisements of quack medicines; yet, for those who "are willing to do everything for the science" of philately (*vide The American Journal of Philately's* own expression), this is a most creditable production, I suppose. To those who are dissatisfied with the tameness of postage stamps, let us commend the "Descriptive List of all Revenue Stamps" as a sort of irritant which might drive one to madness. The list tells us of those labels severally employed to commemorate hair dyes, gargling oils, magnetic plasters, preparations, magical pain extractors, galvanic horse salves, blooms of youth, vinegar bitters,

herb bitters, wines of tar, vermifuge comfits, and I know not how many other diabolical concoctions, but all to be found puffed and described by *The American Journal of Philately*.

Because a man makes a match, the tax upon which is collected by a well-engraved stamp, embellished by a portrait of his own wooden features, is that any reason why we should all long to possess some memento of this man and his, probably, very bad matches? The majority of American collectors run down the study of postage stamps, yet do not object to add the collection of every parti-coloured thing in the shape of a label for matches, patent medicines, sewing machines, beer barrels, tobacco cakes, or what not, when issued by a grateful tax office as vouchers for money received. The abolition of this nonsense would be a gain to American postage stamp collectors, and to those European amateurs who, at times, subscribe to their journals. If these "descriptive lists" continue, we may sink so low in our search after amusement, as to buy patent medicines by the gross for the sake of their stamps; to purchase soothing syrups, gargling oils, and such, by the gallon, in order to become the proud possessors of their ungainly labels. Well do I remember, in times back, the sarcastic hints given by American papers to those who, to them, seemed so in want of an outlet, that they actually examined the perforations and watermarks of their stamps. Now they supply an outlet to collectors with superfluous energies, and with a vengeance!

I just now almost termed American philatelic magazines parodies on philately. In continuation of this last cause of offence, I can only say that in England the stamp journals cannot afford to ignore or to break *all* rules of politeness, grammar, orthography, and punctuation,—all and every of which are continually broken by the leading transatlantic organs. It is very curious, too, that American stamp papers are, in all their own assertions, so self-confident, often bumptious; yet to the statements of a rival magazine, in either hemisphere, they never accord entire acquiescence, seldom even a partial belief. This self-confidence, which is so

boldly asserted, often causes disparaging remarks to be made on what they *do* write. For example, who that read that absurd tirade in the *American Journal*, headed "British Honour," could understand their cause of offence, or could seriously endorse the remarks on British amateurs? What a very foolish tone to adopt when endeavouring to prove they had a grievance! They were annoyed that the 20 c. St. Louis, and the dies of the 5 and 10 c., were critically examined in these pages, instead of in their own. Now surely it lay in their own power to have prevented this; they had all the specimens from which I described, and many more, no doubt, and had possessed them for nearly a year when I saw them; why, then, should they not have described them thoroughly, in their own paper, during that twelve months? Why were they obliged to send them to England to be described? Had they not said they were "determined that everything known about American stamps should be learnt from *The American Journal of Philately*"? and in an excess of confidence, which some might take for conceit, did they not add, "that European philatelists have done this, has long been admitted"? Answering these questions might lead us into invidious doubts, either that they knew too much about the antecedents of the 20 c. St. Louis, or else there was no American writer found capable of critically examining them, and of clearly describing the points of variance.

My readers will ask, "What has all this to do with Confederate provisionals?" Simply this, that Mr. Scott's paper upon the "Confederate Post Office" should be a standard work for all time, and it is a thousand pities that so valuable a work should be tinged by the faults on which I have dilated, as incident to American philately. If the writer will take my criticisms as they are meant, and as the opinions of the great bulk of European amateurs, not written in any cavilling spirit of intending to find fault at all hazards, we may hope for a valuable addition to our monthly serials, and to see *The American Journal of Philately* occupying the position it should do.

Having myself made many notes upon the

Confederate stamps, I think it will be well for me to publish them, though somewhat incomplete, since if I delay I shall be charged with plagiarism in many points where personal observation must prove identical. I had prepared the outlines of a complete catalogue of the stamps under this heading two years ago, but have never been able to finish it from lack of materials; but such as it is, I will dedicate it to the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, feeling sure they will find a few things to interest them.

Few postage stamps will prove to be such memorials as those of the late Confederate States. By their issues, with such varying portraits, and by the emissions from the various cities which formed the chief rallying places, they remind us of those material points in the history of the struggles, which hold the prominent places on the pages of American history. It is upon these "locals," or, more distinctively, "provisionals," that our greatest interest centres; but, to render the present paper thoroughly complete, we are bound to describe fully the various authorised well-known emissions of the government, and not to confine our researches to the rarer and more interesting "provisional local" issues, called forth by the exigencies of the war, after the government was reduced to making localities their head-quarters. The authorised government emissions, of course, vary considerably in the particulars of paper and colour, so it is not surprising that many of the stamps provisionally issued, in various cities, should possess no ascertained normal condition. Of course we must accept all we may find genuine, trusting to future emendations to supply the requisite explanations of their vagaries. Such variations are to be expected in a case where the government was always moving, and where all the peaceful arts were virtually at a stand-still. As a parallel, look back at the coinage during the civil wars in England, when every species of plate was worked into coin by the royal party. The local coinages of Newark and Pontefract must be known to many of us, in which the plate was not even melted down, but the king's

impress, &c., were struck upon the flattened silver, leaving the marks of the original chasing or engraving plainly visible.

In stamp collecting we find hardly such striking things as these, but when a century has given age to philately, many of these Confederate provisionals will be eagerly sought for, and most highly valued. Age gives respectability, and it is only that the whole system of prepayment of cheap postage by stamps is so comparatively new, that philately is thought so lightly of by the general public. An invention which has done so much for the good of mankind, and whose visible signs (stamps) possess every historical record which the future student can desire to command, must, in time, take its proper position, and become subsidiary and indispensable to the study of numismatics.

To collect both coins and stamps *thoroughly* is far beyond the reach of most, but to be a faithful philatelist is not so difficult. To possess a fair exposition of the wondrous advance of civilization during the past quarter of a century, in the remotest parts of the globe, can be done for a sum which would not be missed when spread over a few years. These remarks are in strict accordance with our heading, for the locals or provisionals of the late Confederate States possess original claims upon us as matters of history, and that is the great ground upon which philately will take its stand for all time.

(To be continued.)

ESSAYS ON PHILATELIC SUBJECTS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

I.

WHAT SHALL WE COLLECT?

This is a question which should concern every earnest collector, for in it is embodied the very germ and essence of philately. What we should take, and what reject, in the shape of postal "go-frees" (to use a word most applicable to my meaning), is a subject of great importance, and one which cannot be curtly or lightly dealt with, for it is a matter requiring most careful and unbiased consideration. It will be necessary for me to go over a good deal of old ground,

and to resuscitate a host of well-read arguments; but no definite opinion can be arrived at unless some tautology is allowed me.

When collecting was in its infancy, amateurs were content to take one specimen of each stamp; but I do not believe anyone ever adopted the idea inculcated in the first edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue,—that a change of colour did not constitute any material difference. Now that philately has ripened into a science, it is amusing to look back upon such a sentence as the following:—"A stamp is certainly the same, whether it is on green or white paper; or printed in black, red, or green ink."

Coeval with stamp collecting proper, there began what may be aptly termed a mania for essays. This was all very well for a time, but men soon arose who knew not honesty, and then the universal collecting of these things collapsed, the good and the bad falling into an equal state of evil repute. Some of the leading amateurs still retained them, but it is not to be wondered at that the generality of English collectors gave them up in disgust.

Our English essays are so interesting, and undoubtedly so far beyond suspicion, that I think they ought to be taken whenever a collector has the fortunate opportunity of obtaining them. With the exception of the pair with head of the late Prince Consort, there has never been any question as to the authenticity of every known variety.

The majority of essays were never exhibited to the governments for which they were said to be intended, but there are several genuine foreign ones, among which I may casually mention those for the Wurtemberg envelopes (here figured), which were designed about the same time as the adhesives, by the government engraver, but, from some unexplained cause, were never issued. As the die was altered to suit another purpose, there is no

chance of reprinting, so that originals will ever remain very valuable.

The 25 c. Parma, of the provisional type is *bona fide*, as are also the Italians by Pellas, although the interest in these latter is sadly marred by their quantity, and by their sickening mockery of the kaleidoscope.

There are a few essays (if they can be so called) which should be placed in the *via me lia*, or philatelic purgatory, for they are, as it were, a bridge between the adopted and the rejected. These are the stamps which were prepared for issue, but kept back at the last moment; as the list is a short one, it may be appropriately inserted here. Giving our own country the first place, we have the official "V.R.," the lilac-pink three-halfpenny, and the envelope of similar value. The threepenny, with lined spandrels, should certainly be accepted; but whether it belongs to the class under notice I leave my readers to judge. It is of such rarity that only a favoured few can hope to possess it.

To continue, there is the 12 cuartos Spain, of the 1857 type, the truth respecting which has at last been unearthed by *El Averiguador*; the 6 c. and 8 c. of Belgium, whose history is so ably given by Mr. Overy Taylor in our last number, and the $\frac{1}{4}$ g.gr. brown on white, of Brunswick. Austrian Italy produced a



trio of adhesives, which had not time to circulate, their places being filled by a new issue; I need scarcely say that I refer to the 2, 3, and 15 soldi of the 1861-2 series. The Connell stamp, of New Brunswick, is sometimes termed an essay, but this is an error, as it

undoubtedly had a few days' existence as a postage stamp.

As a natural sequence to essays, one is led to speak of proofs. By that title I do not mean such rubbish as the Hanover—taken after the issue had ceased—but impressions of the die struck before any stamps were printed from it, in their emitted colours. As it is extremely difficult to procure good proofs, the obtaining of them must be left entirely to the inclination, wealth, or influence of the collector. They can only be called subsidiaries to *postage-stamp* collecting.

This remark will, of course, apply with much greater force to essays, always excepting the adopted ones I have enumerated.

Having disposed of what I may term two extraneous points of philately, the next thing is to consider upon what system we ought to collect, so as to obtain the highest amount of intellectual and practical benefit. I may premise the well-known fact that our study is divided into two schools, the followers of which are as opposite in their tenets as the Christian and the Moslem. Sundry designations have been proposed to distinguish these schools, but the false titles of "French" and "English" are still clung to with ridiculous pertinacity.

There are various gradations in the thermometrical ideas of collectors; the following are the principles of the "good old-fashioned" amateur, whom I will place at zero. He only takes stamps issued to the public; and confines himself to one shade, except where there is a prominent difference, as in the red and vermilion penny Antigua. He ignores perforation and paper, and cuts up his envelopes. This is the wrongly-named "English" mode of collecting. It has its advantages, but they are so few that they can be summed up in a single sentence,—economy of money, time, and labour. It is a system I cannot honestly praise, except to those who make of their pleasures a *dolce far niente*.

Philatelists of what must be called the moderate French school, take varieties of perforation, paper, and watermark, and the leading shades of each stamp. They also endeavour to obtain their envelopes un-mutilated. Most add authenticated locals, and in this I think them decidedly right.

The old Greek saying, *ariston metron*, is fully borne out in arranging a stamp album, and the course I have just mentioned is the one I have to recommend. Its advantages are as undeniable as they are numerous, and cannot but present themselves to those who look upon their albums as something better than mere playthings. That varieties should be taken in *moderation*, was most pertinently demonstrated by Mr. Overy Taylor, whose name, and the word consistency, seem, in my opinion, to be convertible terms. What can be truer than the following remarks of that

writer? "If only one series of each type be collected, then the collection is valuable for illustrative purposes, but for no other." This may be given as the axis upon which all our arguments revolve.

If it were possible to define the line which separates the intentional from the accidental varieties, we might then confine our attention solely to the former; but this, as we all know, is utterly out of the question. What, then, must we do?

I have no wish to, and indeed cannot, lay down any dogmatic or standard rule, for a great deal must be left to the opportunities and judgment of the collector. My advice, however, is, that the beginner should endeavour to first obtain two shades of each colour, the darkest and lightest (so that they be not faded) that he can find, and then, as his collection increases, he would be able to add intercalary shades. It will be noticed that I have used the word shade in contradiction to that of colour. To show my application of the latter term, I will instance the imperforate penny Barbados. Among these are numerous gradations of tone, but in reality there is only one colour—blue; however, for simplification, I bracket the dull and deep blues together, as representing differences of one colour, but sky blue and greenish blue I consider as separate colours.

According to my arrangement for beginners, the *colours* of the stamp in question are as follows:—

{ Dull blue
 { Deep blue
 Greenish blue
 Sky blue
 Chalky blue.

I will briefly refer to another oft-disputed subject—perforation. A stamp perforated 16, is as different from another of the same design and colour, but perforated 12, as in botany are eatable *agarici* from those which are poisonous.

It is through a knowledge of perforation that many a collector has been saved from buying reprints; take for example the 1 c. rose British Guiana, which was issued with 12 dents, but is reproduced with 13. Look again at the 1858 emissions of Austria and Austrian Italy, and then if you can fairly cry

Cui bono! I give you leave to call my opinions preposterous. Let us be thorough in our study, and not rest satisfied with the shell of the philatelic nut, when with a little trouble we can obtain the kernel.

In the June number of this journal was an article by Mr. Tiffany (which originally appeared in *The American Stamp Mercury*), suggesting that tyros should be content with one stamp as a specimen of its class; for instance, taking New Zealand (his own illustration) as an example: a 2d., on white, without watermark or perforation; a 1s., on white, with star watermark, but no perforation, and so on.

The idea is an ingenious one, and is a great improvement upon the narrow principles of the ultra-English school, but it is open to objections. To show the faultiness of the system, I will suppose that a collector has a large budget of early Victorian, from which he intends to arrange those with the star watermark. Taking Mr. Pemberton's monograph as his guide, he decides upon making the following six stamps the representatives of the *filagrame* in question.

Queen enthroned,	one penny, imperforate.
"	sixpence, M. large serpentine.
"	rouletted.
Emblems at angles,	one penny, imperforate.
"	machine perf. 12.
"	fourpence, rouletted.

He would be almost certain to find some imperforate copies of the higher values; and, most likely, the unenumerated rouletted of this watermark; but he would probably have a very long search before he discovered the "serpentine" sixpenny. According to Mr. Tiffany's plan, our collector would have to discard two different stamps of each type (I have not considered shades), which at some future time would doubtless cost him more than double the money to obtain. This, for a system the basis of which is economy, will never do.

After a long experience of the moderate (so-called) French plan, I cannot do otherwise than pronounce it the best, as being more reasonable, practicable, and advantageous than any other. Any mode of collecting which does not embrace prominent differences in colour, must be defective; and,

as an officially perforated stamp is not complete without that denticulation, the variations in these ought logically to be taken note of. I could not offer a better model to amateurs than the list of 1860-3, British Guiana, given by Mr. Pemberton at page 29 of the current volume. Those stamps upon medium-toned paper might be omitted, if the catalogue was deemed too extensive.

There is no doubt that ruled albums have done much to cramp collecting, for I have myself known cases where the collector would not take a certain distinctive variety, merely because Lallier or Oppen had not marked a space for it. Ruled spaces are a decided mistake, and the sooner they are done away with, and blank pages substituted, the better. If the list of emissions is given upon the opposite page to the one devoted to the stamps, the collector does not require to be shown how to place the specimens, if he is endowed with even a modicum of common sense.

So much has been written to show the absurdity of cutting envelopes, that I need only barely refer to it. There are certain reprinted envelopes which it is impossible to distinguish from the genuine, unless they are in a state of entirety. To take one instance out of many, I will mention the *Bestelgeldfrei* Hanover, the originals of which were only gummed at the extremity of the flap; whereas the reprints have mucilage along the edges.

As the pecuniary value of an envelope is decreased one half *at least*, after the application of the scissors, such a course always seems to me as foolish as clipping sovereigns and throwing away the dust.

The collecting of official and newspaper stamps I must consider in another paper.

INVERTED AND REVERSED WATERMARKS.

BY REV. ROBERT B. EARE.

SINCE the appearance of my article on inverted watermarks, which you were good enough to insert, I have received communications from several brother philatelists on the subject; and, by their politeness, I am

enabled to add a few more varieties to my list, as follows:—

Argentina, 1864, five centavos carmine, inverted "R.A."
 British Columbia, 1865, threepence blue, inverted crown and "cc."
 Hong Kong, 1865, four cents grey, inverted crown and "cc."
 Modena, 1854, one lira white, inverted "M."
 New South Wales, sixpence, square, violet, inverted "6."
 New Zealand, 1863, sixpence brown, inverted "N.Z."
 New Zealand, one shilling green, inverted "N.Z."
 Western Australia, 1856, one penny black, inverted swan.

I must tell you that I have not seen all the above-mentioned stamps, but I give them on the authority of those who actually possess them.

Your correspondent, "G. W. B.," speaks of *reversed* watermarks in his article; I have had a few examples of them in my possession for some time, but I did not venture to catalogue them, lest the purists and carpists (urged beyond all patience by what they must consider as mere transcendentalism on my part) should come down upon me with one accord, and extinguish me altogether. As it is, I confess that I fully expected to see that extinct and fossil mammal, the "Pendragon," galvanized into life, to slay and devour the innovation and its author. You may imagine, then, that I thought I had gone quite far enough when I wrote concerning the *inverted* watermarks; but now that another correspondent has stated that *he* collects reversed watermarks, I may say that *I* do so too. Unfortunately, I have not got many specimens as yet; they seem to be more uncommon than the inverted ones. I have seen the South Australians watermarked with crown and "A.S.," instead of "S.A.,"; and also the Argentines of 1864 with "A.R.,"; but in my own possession I have at present only the following:—

New South Wales, one shilling square, rose, reversed "12."
 Queensland, one penny red and sixpence green, reversed crown and "Q."
 Tasmania, fourpence blue, reversed "4."
 Victoria, tenpence red-brown, reversed "10."

Those who collect the inverted watermarks will, of a surety, accept the reversed ones also, sooner or later, for the same argument applies with equal force to both; that is to say, they are both errors of manipulation,

and, therefore, if one be accepted, the other must be accepted too, and *vice versa*; so that we may borrow for them the motto of Mr. Darbin's pets,—“*United, we stand; divided, we fall.*”

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.

THE *Postamtblatt* contains a memorial treating of the International Postal Conference, which was drawn up in the Berlin General Post-office, and has been approved by the imperial chancellor. It contains some interesting observations on international postal arrangements.

The treaties concluded of late years between various states, have, it says, prepared the way for a further simplification of the business of the post, and the question now arises whether a general postal congress might not remove some of the inconveniences which still exist. Such a congress would not have to discuss theories, nor to draw up a programme, but, if possible, to establish a single treaty between all the countries interested in the matter.

The following points are then specially proposed:

I.—The countries hereafter mentioned shall be comprehended in the same postal arrangements. The states of Europe, Asiatic Russia, and Turkey, Algiers, the Spanish possessions in Northern Africa, the Canary Islands, Madeira, the United States of America, Canada, and the rest of the British possessions in North America, and Greenland.

II.—The charge for a single letter passing from one country to another within the whole of this immense postal district, without any difference being made on account of the distance of the destination, shall amount to 20 centimes if prepaid, and 40 centimes if unpaid.

a.—In case of sea transit of more than 300 knots an extra charge of not more than 20 centimes per letter, whether prepaid or not, may be made, to cover the expenses therefrom arising.

b.—The letters being paid in the coin of the various states, a slight difference in charge must be made as the coinage of the countries interested does not entirely cor-

respond, but this variation from the normal rate ought never to exceed five centimes.

III.—The weight of a single letter shall be fixed at 15 grammes; when this weight is exceeded a double rate is to be charged.

a.—The maximum weight of a letter shall be 250 grammes.

b.—In countries where the metric and decimal system has not been introduced, the closest possible approach shall be made to the above-mentioned weights in the system in use.—*Globe*.

A BATCH OF NOVELTIES.

COMMUNICATED AND DESCRIBED BY
EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

KNOXVILLE.—The engraving represents the earliest stamps issued by the postmaster of this place; it was adhesive, black on white; and envelope, olive-green on various papers. The specimen from which we engrave belongs to Dr. Petrie's collection, and is unknown in Europe.

CHARLESTON.—When Mr. Scott wrote his paper on Confederate Provisionals last year, he did not appear to have met with the Charleston envelope. There is a beautiful specimen in Mr. Philbrick's collection; the design is like the adhesive, less the outer rayed ground and border; the numeral is longer and less spreading, with cts under it in letters of uniform thinness throughout. This extreme rarity is printed in deep blue, and the envelope is of yellow laid paper.

PETERSBURG.—We may appropriately mention here, that there are two dies of this value (perhaps more); those we have seen, vary in the position of the ornaments by side of numeral 5.

COLUMBIA.—This is another city in the late Confederate States which issued a provisional postage stamp; it is scarcely known in Europe, but it is not a loss so far as appearances are concerned. An ungainly figure 5 occupies the centre of an oval, and this again is enclosed in another; and between the two is printed P. O. COLUMBIA,

s. c. PAID, all in capitals. It is handstamped in blue, upon all sorts of envelopes; and we are not aware that it exists as an adhesive.

CEYLON ENVELOPES.—The 1d. and 2d. were issued in 1857; the others at intervals after. This is not according to our usual authorities, each of whom gives 1861 as the earliest date for an issue of stamped envelopes.

AUSTRIA.—It may not be generally known that the printing of the 50 krenzer, of the current set, has been discontinued for, at least, the last six months; and the value will become obsolete, if it is not already.

FIJI ISLANDS.—We have to chronicle another value—ninepence. We have also to add a variety of the 6d., on *batonné* paper.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 10d., with black surcharging, exists with three varieties of perforation: 1st, rouletted, as chronicled last month; 2nd, M. 12-13, compound; 3rd, M. 10½, top and bottom, with 12-13 compound at sides.

BAHMEN.—It does not seem to have been noted that of the machine perforated stamps there are two varieties, 13 and 16; of the first there is a full set; of the other we have 5 and 10 grote only.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—We have the good fortune to be the first to reproduce the type which, if we are correctly informed, has been adopted by the

government for the forthcoming series of Spanish stamps. It may be said to mark a new era in European postage-stamp portraits, as no attempt had previously been made to give the features of royalty on such a

(comparatively) large scale, and to produce a life-like appearance. The profile of Queen Victoria is an ideal, that of the French Emperor is the expression of a Napoleonic idea, whilst the other portraits are mere engravers' inanities. That of Amadeus I. is, on the other hand, remarkable for its truthfulness; the likeness is unmistakable, and it is large enough to give room for the

clear delineation of every feature. In this respect it reminds one forcibly of the two-cent American, with head of old Hickory. As to the general contour of the face, it is not difficult to trace therein a "family likeness" to Victor Emmanuel.

The framework is of fair average merit, but presents no very salient point; and we fear that the border does not leave room for the expression in prominent characters of the lengthy denomination of value found on Spanish stamps.

Only a few copies of the design above represented have been struck off; and the colours are not yet decided on. We hope, however, soon to have intelligence of both colours and values, as we are promised early impressions of the forthcoming series.

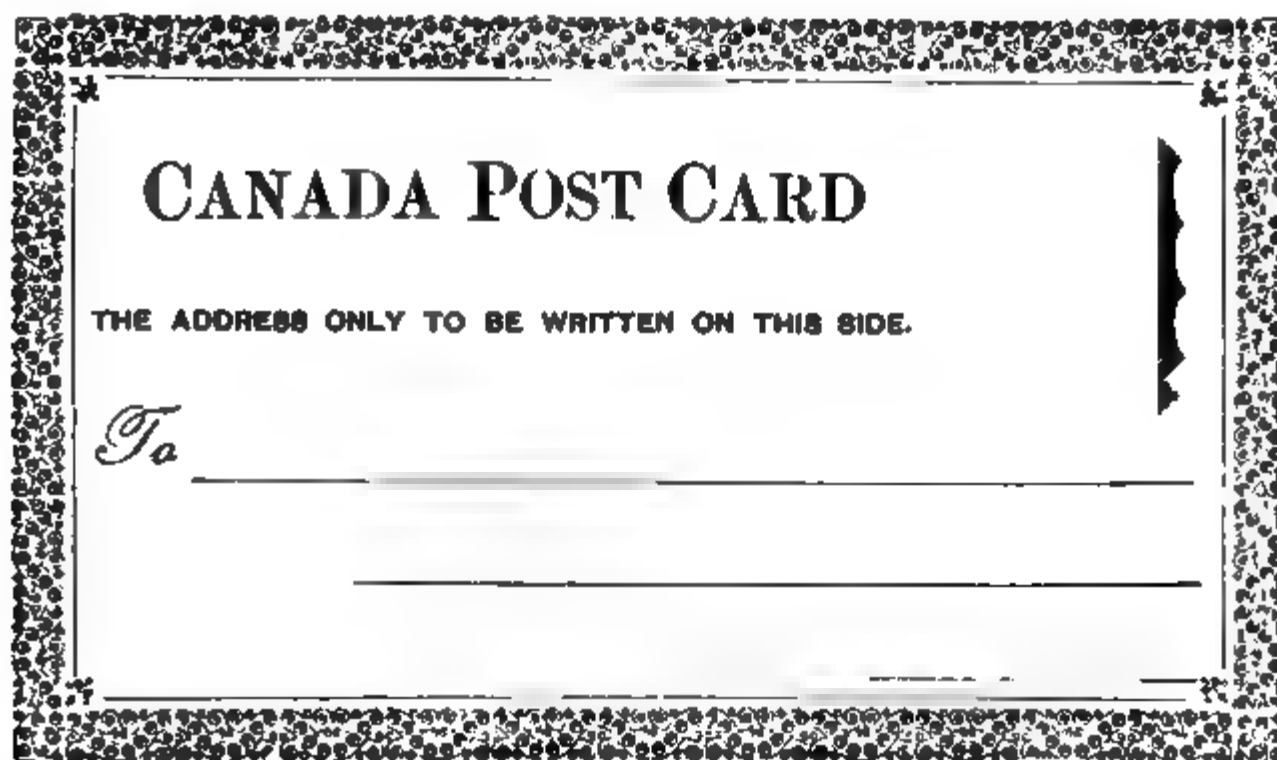
JAPAN.—We were able last month to refer to a rumour to the effect that stamps for the Japanese empire were really in preparation, and our Brighton contemporary's last number contained engravings of the said stamps. These we have now the privilege of reproducing; and whilst rendering our hearty acknowledgments to our contemporary for allowing us the use of the cuts, we have also to congratulate him on his good fortune and enterprise in describing and engraving these stamps before anyone else knew of them.

Blue.

Red.

Green.

From information and specimens we have since received, we are in a position to state that besides the three stamps here represented, a fourth exists, and perhaps others. They are all on very thin Chinese wove paper of a yellowish tinge, and are lithographed. The inscription in the centre is black, and the



surrounding design in colour. From the extreme grotesqueness of the device, which may be technically described as two dragons rampant, with interlooped tails, we were at first inclined to entirely discredit the statement of the German magazine, to the effect that these stamps were the production of a German firm; but our opinion has been at least modified on this point, from the circumstance that the outer border is composed of a rather finely drawn Greek pattern, with which we should imagine the Japanese artists are not familiar. Nevertheless, the fact that the design has been separately engraved for each value, and the posture of the dragons differs in each, still militates against the European origin of the stamps. Whether, however, they were engraved in Europe or not, it is evident that the printing took place in Japan, for the colours have the true "celestial" brilliancy and depth of tint. The black inscription has evidently been struck in a separate operation; and in some of the specimens it trenches on the border.

The value is expressed in "*mons*;" the lowest being worth 48, and the highest 500. We know not whether the *mon* is a fraction of the *ichibu*, which, according to our Brighton contemporary, is the principal Japanese coin, and equals $1/4\frac{1}{2}$ of our money; but if so, it is the 1-1650th part thereof, as

100 *mons* are equal to a penny. The values and colours are as follows:—

48 <i>mons</i>	dark brown.
100 (or 96) "	indigo.
200 "	red.
500 "	green.

The three lower ones are in our possession; the highest has been mentioned by *The Philatelist*. In explanation of the double expression of value, it must be said that in Japan the 96 *mons* is always considered and counted as a hundred, and the 48 sometimes as 50.

For the guidance of our readers, we have accompanied each engraving with the mention of its colour. The unrepresented stamp has a more open inscription; the little square in the upper part has two curved strokes inside, and below the square is a cross.

These stamps are used between Yeddo and Osaka and the intervening towns and villages; and we hope the correspondent to whom we are indebted for these particulars will be good enough to obtain for us the postal tariff which governs their employment.

Two of the stamps from which we describe are still attached to a fragment of the letters which they franked; and their postmark consists of an oblong rectangle rather broader than, and about twice the length of, the stamp, within which are certain Japanese characters.

We have now, we think, fully described the emission which, as that of an empire practically unknown to the civilised world when the first British stamp made its appearance, is of surpassing interest; and we trust that the enterprise of stamp dealers will soon place specimens within the reach of every collector.

CANADA.—In our July number we described the new one-cent post card for the Dominion; we have now the pleasure to give (on the preceding page) an approximate representation of the same; and to save the trouble of reference, we repeat the information that the design is in blue, and the card itself buff.

SWEDEN.—The long-lived Swedish adhesives are to be relieved from service on the 1st January, 1872, when they will make room for an entirely new, and, let us hope, original series, composed of the following values, viz.: 3, 5, 6, 12, 20, 30, 50 öre, and 1 rix-dollar. In other words, the values will be the same as the present, with a new one added—the rix-dollar; but with the adhesives will appear also a 12 öre envelope and a 12 öre post card. It is rather strange that the card should be as dear as the envelope. What can be the advantage in using it on those terms? The cards, it is true, are to be sold at their facial value, whilst another öre will be added to the facial value of the envelopes, if not more than ten are bought at a time, and half an öre for greater quantities; still there is not very much difference between the all-hiding envelope and the all-displaying card. Colours and designs are as yet unknown, but the correspondent who has kindly favoured us with the foregoing information has promised to furnish us with proofs on cardboard as soon as possible.

FRANCE.—In *The Morning Post* last month, it was stated that post cards were about to be introduced into France, and that they would be charged half the ordinary postage. By this we understand that post cards of 5 and 10 centimes are to be issued; the former for communications delivered in the district within which they are posted, the latter for communications to any part of the empire.

We clip from a Parisian paper of the beginning of last month the following item:—

Paris is suffering now from an inundation of false 10

and 20 centime postage stamps, which is really surprising. These stamps are, it appears, obtained from new dies, with the effigy of the republic, which have been stolen. They can with difficulty be recognised; one single detail of engraving, uncompleted at the time of the theft, distinguishes them from the genuine impressions. But the police are on the track of the counterfeiters, who, notwithstanding all their stamps, will hardly be able to go free themselves.

It appears as if the engraved republic series was here referred to, and not the Bordeaux type; if so, a new emission may be reckoned among the probabilities.

Our Brighton contemporary, in the last number, gives some details respecting the stamps said to have been used to frank letters which were delivered in Paris by private agents during the reign of the Commune. We do not question the authenticity of these stamps, though, on the authority of a correspondent on the other side of the channel, we do question their employment—at any rate to any perceptible extent, but we intend ourselves to abstain from giving any description of these stamps, as we have the example of the Hamburg locals before our eyes, and do not wish to add any more shams to the number already existing. It can easily be understood that it would be extremely difficult to verify the character of stamps which might be represented as being French locals. There were a number of agencies at work to fill the vacuum caused by the withdrawal of the postal authorities from Paris to Versailles during the Commune; we have ourselves enumerated in these pages some of the means employed to keep up communication between Paris and the provinces, and there may have been many others of which we have no information. Under such circumstances—and we are at least as well placed as the majority of collectors to decide—we could not say whether a stamp asserted to have been used for the prepayment of correspondence sent through private hands was so used or not, and acting on the old French proverb, *Dans le doute abstiens-toi*, we should certainly not accept it. Were it once established that French locals of this class were deserving of collection, the ingenuity of scheming engravers and sharpers would be taxed to its utmost to reel off a score of spurious stamps to supply the demand; some, if not all, would

be accepted by collectors who will not reject doubtful varieties, for fear they may be genuine, and forthwith a couple of pages would be consecrated to the vermin in Moens' and Lallier's albums.

SWITZERLAND.—One of our correspondents sends us a Swiss envelope—the 30 centime blue, in left corner, bearing the usual dove watermark, and therefore evidently official, with a peculiar flap stamp, consisting of a shield, with an obscure device on it, supported by griffins, and surmounted by a coronet. The envelope came from Berne, but the design does not much resemble that of the "Kanton Bern" fiscal stamps. The arms are enclosed in a beaded oval, and as the impression of the upper part thereof is not clear, it would seem that this flap stamp was struck after the envelope was completed. There is nothing in the vocation of the senders of this particular envelope to justify the addition by them of these armorial bearings; we therefore think they are added in the Berne post-office; and if so, the envelopes on which they appear become varieties of considerable interest.

Our publishers have received from the Berne post-office an envelope bearing neither watermark nor embossed stamp, but in the lower left corner is a blue circular handstamp; the inscription reads as follows: In the outer circle, SCHWEIZERISCHE EIOGENOSSENSCHAFT; in the inner circle, GENERAL POST DIRECTION; in the centre, on a ground of horizontal lines, is the usual white cross, and on the flap the cross appears again in the centre of a shield.

HUNGARY.—The series of Hungarian adhesives and envelopes recently noticed, and which we should have mentioned as being identical in its values and colours with the Austrian set, seems likely to have but a brief circulation. The design was lithographed, and left much to desire on the score of clearness. Probably from this reason the postal authorities have, we assume, determined to supersede it by an *engraved* and identical design. At all events we have before us a 2 krenzer stamp bearing a design engraved with a fineness and delicacy which could not be surpassed; and it is in all respects the copy of its lithographed predecessor. The portrait

of the emperor is a remarkable one; and we shall be much surprised if it does not turn out to be a perfect resemblance.

GERMANY.—First among the postal emissions for the new empire, comes an unpretending post card, inscribed with the words DEUTSCHES REICHES POSTGEBIET—"Post-office of the German Empire"—an inscription which represents a fact, and not an "idea." The imperial eagle divides the first two of the above words from the last. It is a single-headed eagle, and its two legs shoot out straight from the body; in an escutcheon on its breast, is the Prussian eagle with its attributes. The card whence we describe is buff, the inscriptions are in black, and there is a place ruled on the right-hand side to contain the adhesive stamp.

UNITED STATES.—We noticed, last month, an obsolete local, issued by Mr. Crosby, of New York, together with a new one emanating from the same source. Mr. Atlee now informs us that he has it on Mr. Crosby's own authority, that the so-termed obsolete stamp—an oblong oval—never existed. Mr. Atlee adds, and we willingly accept his correction, that we are wrong in stating that Crosby's stamp is not used for letters; and the introduction to Mr. Atlee's paper, in the current number, contains the explanation of the anomaly which permits private agents to carry letters within New York city.

NEVIS.—The one penny is now printed in a rosy lake shade, approaching that of the first edition, but distinguishable therefrom by the paper, which, like that of the preceding issue is pure white. This new variety came over by the last West Indian mail, together with supplies of the penny orange-red.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We clip from *The Times* of the 18th ult. the following information:—"Canadian papers state that the postal-card system is to be introduced into British Columbia." Most probably specimens will be received by next mail.

CEYLON.—A correspondent writing from Kandy, informs us that a new coinage for the island, with the denomination expressed in *cents*, is shortly to make its appearance; and, he adds, no doubt the stamps will also be renewed. In thus adopting the decimal

system, Ceylon will only be following the example of the Straits Settlements.

VICTORIA.—We are informed by a correspondent that it is in contemplation to issue halfpenny adhesive stamps to be used to prepay the postage on local town letters.

ST. VINCENT.—The penny stamp of this island, hitherto printed in red, is now changed to black.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XIV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Bergedorf.

THIS magazine may claim for itself the honour of introducing to public notice the town

which gives its name to the graduated series of stamps we are about to examine. Prior to the year 1863, the question, Where is Bergedorf? would have formed a good conundrum; and I

feel sure that "Give it up" would have been the answer of many well-informed persons who could have accurately indicated the latitude and longitude of Kamschatka. In the second number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, however, there appeared an interesting article on Bergedorf, to which I am now glad to have recourse myself, to brush up my knowledge of that out-of-the-way locality, and for the compilation of which the author must have felt, to some extent, repaid by the gratitude of philatelists. It gave to the mythical German town a local, though somewhat uncertain habitation; for, according to the contradictory testimony of the gazetteers consulted by the author, it is on the Bille, or Rille, and is distant "nine miles E.; ten miles E.S.E.; twelve miles E.; ten miles E.; twelve miles E.S.E., and twelve kilometres S. E. of Hamburg. It was once a troublesome little place, a thorn in the side of the twin commercial giants of other days—Hamburg and Lubeck. Wicked and highly romantic robbers took refuge in its castle, and thence sallied out to obtain forced loans from travellers, and to requisition surrounding communes in the most

approved style. One fine day, however, the peace-loving burghesses of Hamburg and Lubeck united, and, after an attack on the town, they regularly smoked the hornets out of their nests in the rocks, and the dramatic brigand was seen no more in those parts. That was early in the fifteenth century; and soon after a certain duke of Saxony, who had been a protector of the Bergedorf band of brothers, made over his rights to Hamburg and Lubeck jointly. Ever since then the town has been sinking deeper and deeper into oblivion; its very history has to be dug out of old manuscripts; and, but for the fortunate advent of philately, it is impossible to say what would have become of it.

The foregoing (very thin) slice of history is a necessary introduction to the study of the stamps themselves, for the central figure of their unique design is formed of a tower, and the half of an eagle, of which the other half is evidently held in durance vile. This quaint device is composed of the arms of Hamburg and Lubeck, the two protecting cities, which, it may be mentioned, for more than four hundred years alternately nominated the bailiff or governor of Bergedorf; and each supplied an equal number of soldiers to garrison the castle. The subordinate position of the town is further denoted by the four corner letters in the inner square—L. H. P. A.—which signify *Lubeck* (and) *Hamburg post amt* (post office). It seems strange at first that a town which had degenerated into a mere suburb of Hamburg should be allowed to issue stamps, and have a semi-independent existence of its own; but in this very fact we get a glimpse of old feudal practices and traditions. The town was placed in the position of a vassal, but its allegiance was due to commercial cities which sometimes were hardly put to it to maintain their own independence; so, whilst Bergedorf was snubbed by its more powerful neighbours, they on their side had too much kind feeling for a sister town to govern it out of existence altogether, and so left it some of the symbols of sovereignty. When the North German Confederation was established in 1866, a good many useful institutions, together with not a few time-honoured

shams were annihilated; and it is among these latter, I fear, that the Bergedorf post-office must be classed. Let us hope, however, that the Bergedorf postmaster escaped the fate of his office, for he must have been a man of some originality, and bent on marking his tenure of the situation by a striking innovation. To that effect he "created" (to use the French expression) the stamps which form the *raison d'être* of this present article.

The intelligent inhabitants of Bergedorf did not participate until somewhat late in the day in the blessings of postage stamps. It was not until November, 1861, that the first pair saw the light. They were the half schilling black on violet paper, and the three schilling black on rose. These two stamps, and especially the latter, have attained a high degree of rarity. How many forgeries of them have been concocted I leave it to Mr. Atlee to say; but without trenching on his ground, I may mention the one simple and unfailing test of genuineness, and that is—identity in every detail of engraving with the common stamps of the same values, viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling indigo and 3 schilling purple on rose. The rare and the common are one and all from the same dies; therefore colour is the only distinguishing point, and the slightest variation from the common type is damnatory. To young beginners, for whom these papers are written, and who are thinking of investing in a pair of first issue Bergedorf, my advice would be—Don't! unless you are prepared to pay a very high price for them, and are dealing with a stamp merchant who has a character to lose.

The second series of stamps was issued only eleven days after the appearance of the first. Its values are pretty well known; still, as they are now obsolete, it may be as well to mention that they are as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$	schilling	black on violet.
1	"	white.
$1\frac{1}{2}$	"	yellow.
3	"	purple on rose.
4	"	black on brown.

It would seem that the two rare stamps—though by the accident of their appearance before the rest they are considered to form a

distinct series—ought rather to be deemed varieties, seeing that they were not engraved before the other values, and that they show the same distinctions of size.

All five stamps were lithographed. They remained in circulation until 1867, when the post-office business was made over to the Confederation, and after their suppression a sheet of proofs, taken in black from the original stone, made its appearance. From this interesting

witness we have evidence of the order in which the stamps were drawn. On the first line are found the 4 and the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch., below these the 3 and the 1 sch., and under them again the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. Beneath the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. appears the impression of a new and unknown type for a 4 sch. stamp, of which the annexed engraving is a copy. It appears that this value was so extensively forged at Hamburg, that the Bergedorf postal authorities had caused this new design to be prepared, and were about to issue it when the war of 1866 broke out, and the project fell through. On this sheet of original proofs a peculiar error was noted by its examiner, M. Moens. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch. bears on the left the word *schillings*, with an *e*, and it appears that some stamps were actually issued showing this variety—stamps, I presume, of the first issue; for very shortly the error was discovered, and in the lithographic transfer from which the sheets were printed the superfluous and ungrammatical *e* was effaced.*

With the exception of the above-mentioned design, Bergedorf is fortunate in not possessing any *essays*. The grotesque device which ornaments its stamps has not been further twisted and turned to suit the purpose and fill the pocket of any ingenious engraver. And—still greater wonder—it is, to the best of my belief, innocent of reprints.

* Has it ever been noticed how cleverly our own post-office omitted any grammatical difficulty or awkwardness in the expression of the value of the 1½d. stamp, by using the colloquial expression *three-halfpence*, and thereby, for the nonce, rendering the halfpenny a unit of currency.—ED.]

The stamps which have long been selling, since they ceased to circulate, below their facial value, are genuine remainders, though whether printed off to meet the wants of home correspondents or foreign customers remains doubtful. Beginners, however, may accept them for what they are, viz., genuine stamps, and be thankful that they can get them so cheap.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

III.

THERE is a prevailing misconception concerning the American Despatch Companies, which may be as well cleared up now as at some future time. The idea seems to be, that the Congress of the United States has abolished *all* private posts, and prohibited their existence under fine and imprisonment. This is only half correct, as I shall presently show.

In 1861 an action was brought by the authorities against Messrs. Kockersperger & Co., who then owned Blood's Philadelphia Despatch; and it was decided that according to the Post-office Act of March 3rd, 1851, the "streets" of cities and towns were constituted "post-routes," and that the government alone had the power to carry letters over them. But this decision has not now, and never has had, any force within the *city* of New York; for by a charter granted to them by George II., the city authorities are empowered to license carriers as a means of revenue.

There is a certain amount of jealousy between the corporate government of New York and the national administration; and as one clause of the charter cannot be abrogated without doing away with the whole, it is carefully guarded in its integrity, and the authorities continue to license whom they please.

The labels of Hussey, Boyd, and Crosby, are still used; for as the proprietors hold licences as common carriers, they deliver *sealed* letters, and are, so far as their own city is concerned, upon an equal footing with the government post.

WHITTLESEY'S EXPRESS.

The original of the engraving here given* is almost unique. I have not been able to obtain any information as to the route worked by this company, but I can safely say that the stamp has been obsolete for many years. It has been referred to in all the catalogues, but probably from hearsay only; for the name is erroneously given as "Whittlesey's," or "Whittleley's." It is printed in a dull brick-red upon white paper. The larger labels with a modern head, which one sometimes sees, are of course fictitious.

WALTON & CO.'S CITY EXPRESS.

This company was started in Brooklyn about 1846. Only one stamp was issued; and this, from its great rarity, does not appear to have been imitated. Within a rectangular frame is an oval band, inscribed WALTON & CO.'S CITY EXPRESS, POST 2 CTS.; in the angles are horizontal lines. Printed in black upon pink glazed paper.

GAY'S BOSTON EXPRESS.

The only label issued by this express was emitted in 1845, and is of equal rarity to the one last described. It is a very ordinary looking affair, being composed of a double-lined transverse oblong frame, with truncated angles; which, to make a perfect parallelogram, are filled in with triangular figures, containing three oblique lines; the ornamentation is completed by a little curled device within each corner of the frame. The inscription consists of GAY'S EXPRESS, FROM BOSTON, in two lines of large type; below this is

Offices { 15, State St., Boston.
58, Wall St., N. Y.

Upon my copy the number in Wall St. has had the pen run through it, and "70" substituted. The postmark used was the word PAID, in red. The impression is in black on yellow paper.

GRAFFLIN'S BALTIMORE DESPATCH.

Original copies of the well-known stamp of this post are scarce; but the die has fallen into the hands of a reprinter, and specimens of that person's handicraft are

* [We regret we are compelled to defer giving the representation of this rare local stamp until our next number, in consequence of the engraving having failed to reach us in time for publication.—ED.]

common. The only way to test the originals, if unobliterated, is by the dingy whiteness of the paper.

The stamp under notice consists of a rectangular frame, inscribed with the name, and ONE CENT; the central device being a monument within an oval. Both the original and reprint are confined to black upon white paper.

There is a very fair forgery, but it lacks clearness, and the statue at the summit of the pillar is indistinct, as is also the entrance to the monument. In the genuine they are plainly visible. The counterfeits are in blue, as well as in the emitted colour.

METROPOLITAN ERRAND AND CARRIER'S EXPRESS.

This company was established in New York in 1855, and obtained a charter from the government of that state. It undoubtedly delivered letters, notwithstanding the oft-quoted statement that it was simply a parcel-delivery company. From an interesting article in *The American Journal of Philately* I extract the following information respecting the scales of charges for letters.

Within a certain distance of the company's office, one cent; beyond that distance (Fortieth St.), or to any part of the United States, except California, and also for registered city letters, five cents.

Over half-an-ounce, to any part of the States, ten cents; not exceeding half-an-ounce, to California, Oregon, or the Sandwich Isles, fifteen cents. Special message below Fortieth Street, twenty cents. To Great Britain, thirty cents the half ounce; and for the same weight to Russia, Prussia, the German States, or Austria, forty cents.

The stamps were from the *atelier* of Messrs. Baldwin, Bald, & Conslard, who printed them in sheets of one hundred. The design consists of an engine-turned shield, with the name of the company following the border, and the value in the centre. The set consisted of 1, 5, 10, and 20 cents, which were all printed in red on thin white paper; but the lowest value is also found upon a thicker paper.

These stamps have been reprinted upon thick paper in their original tint, and also in blue. Some of these latter are occasionally to be seen upon thin paper, but they were cut from a printed circular which the company periodically published. There was evidently a large stock of labels on hand

when the company was dissolved, for original copies are not uncommon.

A 2-cent envelope was issued, having an embossed impress of the same shape as the adhesive; but the shield was smaller, and the centre was filled with horizontal lines. The disposition of the letters was the same, but the figure of value is curious, having undoubtedly been altered from a 1, and an s added to CENT. This stamp was also printed in red, and was struck upon yellow laid paper, with *vergeures* oblique. It has been reprinted, but the paper is too thick, the tone too creamy, and the lines horizontal. There are no forgeries of the stamps of this express. The only obliteration I have seen is in black, and consisted of the word PAID within a rounded oblong.

POMEROY AND CO.'S EXPRESS.

This dispatch company was established in 1849 by Mr. G. Pomeroy, and was continued by him until bought up by the American Express Company.

Two stamps were issued, one for ordinary letters, and the other for heavier correspondence and small parcels. The latter is by far the rarer, original copies being practicably unattainable. As an engraving is here given, a description may be dispensed with.

This, the largest of all the locals, was printed in

Black upon thick white paper

" " thinnish " "

Blue " " " "

About eight years since, the die fell into the hands of an American dealer, who struck off a few copies in black. It is difficult to detect these from the originals, except from the freshness of their appearance.

The stamp for single letters was the well-known rectangle, engraved by Gavit (since vice-president of the American Bank Note Company). It contained a finely executed

female bust within a solid oval band, lettered POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS; the angles of the frame being filled by ornamental devices; FREE STAMP in very minute capitals above, 20 FOR \$1 in similar letters at foot.

Black on thick yellow paper.

" " " olive-brown "

Blue " thin white "

Black " " " "

Specimens are often found in red upon white, but these are proofs only. Neither of Pomeroy's stamps has been forged.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE FRENCH AND GERMAN postal authorities are at loggerheads about postal arrangements, and cannot come to terms. The French delegate, M. Stepan, refuses to lower the tariff in the present bad state of French finance.—*Graphic*.

A PHILATELIC SOCIETY AT MELBOURNE.—A correspondent, writing from Victoria, says,—“Thinking it may be of some use to you, I beg to inform you that a philatelic society has been formed in Melbourne. I can give you no further information on the subject at present, but, perhaps, some one better acquainted will enlighten you.”

THE ITALIAN POST-OFFICE has given notice to this department (English post-office), that the laws of Italy forbid the transmission by the post, within that country, of letters or packets containing money, jewelry, or other articles of value; and that henceforward any letters containing such articles, which may be sent in the mails to Italy, will be returned to this country undelivered. This prohibition extends also to letters superscribed as containing money.—*Times*.

POSTMASTER STEENACKERS.—It is said that this gentleman threw many difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestions made by the members of the French government who remained in Paris during the Prussian siege, with a view to the improvement of the communications between the capital and the provinces. In consequence, M. Steenackers is “wanted” by the Committee of the National Assembly, charged with the duty of examining the acts of the government of the 4th September.

PROPOSED NEW POSTAL DEPARTMENT.—A novel device for aiding the revenue has just been propounded by Mr. W. H. Walker, of Bow. This gentleman proposes that the stamping instruments used by the post-office officials in marking letters should be made to answer a double purpose, by imprinting along with the postmark some brief advertisement, arranged round the margin of the ordinary impression. The same idea, with some modifications, is extended to the impressed stamp. It is stated that by a perfectly practicable arrangement, all the letters delivered in any particular district would be made to bear any specified advertisement, the words being, of course, few in number. Thus the post-office authorities might engage with an advertiser to let his announcement appear on all the letters delivered in Brighton, or Edinburgh, or Dublin during a single day, or for a longer term; or the London delivery might thus be utilised. It is thought that the mails for foreign countries might be made available in the same way.

Supposing that a plan of this kind can be practically developed without interfering with the efficiency of the post-office, it certainly promises the advantage of a vast revenue in a form which will directly relieve the burden of taxation. The idea is, at least, ingenious, and in clever and willing hands might be turned to good account.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. G. B., Huddersfield.—The Rigi-Kaltbad stamp is a Swiss local, issued by the proprietor of the Kaltbad establishment on the Rigi mountain.

R. C. HOPE, Derby.—Your carmine 6 cents United States is probably genuine.—Your carmine sixpence St. Christopher is either a forgery or an extremely rare variety; and we cannot pronounce on it without seeing it.

Mrs. L. J. N., Melton Mowbray.—A new issue of Tasmanian postage stamps took place this year; the type is represented and values given in our impression for February last. What your threepenny stamp can be we are at a loss to know, but next month we will insert your letter in the hope of obtaining information.

H. W. H., Newcastle.—Of the Deccan stamps, of which you were kind enough to send us a sketch, No. 1 was described in vol. viii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 90, and No. 2 in the April number of present volume. Both are alluded to in the “Batch of Novelties” described by Mr. Pemberton in our last.

E. F. C., Belfast.—When the North German Confederation was established, a fresh series of stamps was required for the states of which it was comprised, and the large stock of Prussian and other envelopes thus rendered obsolete was utilised by putting new adhesives over the impressed stamps, after these latter had been pressed down by printing over them the minutely-lettered grey tablet. These envelopes were described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* at the period of their metamorphosis.

ARISTON METRON.—We must decline to insert your letter, whilst we respect the convictions it expresses. You consider that the study of differences of watermark, minute variations in shade, and perforations represent “various phases of folly;” and that “it is too much to expect any moderately-brained collector to search upon every label he gets for mere topsy-turvy peculiarities upon their backs.” These assertions have, however, so often been made, and, in our own opinion, so often refuted, that it is waste of space to repeat them. If our correspondent will take the trouble to go through the volumes of this magazine, for the last four or five years, he will find numerous articles *pro* and *con* the collection of varieties; if he can produce additional arguments, *contra*, we shall be happy to insert them; but the letter he now sends us is but a prolonged exclamation “How absurd!” and that proves nothing. “A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still;” and we fear our correspondent would not willingly allow himself to be reasoned out of his opinions; but, were it otherwise, we think the perusal of an article on “Varieties, and why they should be collected” (*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 148), would tend to change his ideas on the point. Meanwhile, we can but agree to differ from him as to the study of varieties; and, in conclusion, we would beg him to bear in mind that the mere notice of inverted watermarks or other oddities in these pages must not be taken as inculcating their collection by all philatelists. It is our aim to make this magazine the representative of philatelists of all classes, by opening its columns to the advocacy of all shades of opinion; and, whilst holding firm to our own, we are far from expecting everyone to share in it.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The last two numbers have for us somewhat less interest than their immediate predecessors. Something of the holiday season is visible in the make up, but even, after making this deduction, it must still be acknowledged that our contemporary's pages contain a large amount of readable and valuable matter. Thus, for instance, there are the instalments of the "Spud Papers," the last of which has but one fault, that of being too short; its predecessor does not even sin in that respect. In the August number, specimens of two very careful forgeries are given; the 5 c. Philippines, 1863, second type, and the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., 1 real; beyond a suspicious dexterity in the apposition of the postmark, there is but little to render an inexpert collector doubtful of their genuineness. The companion of the P. S. N. C. stamp, the 2 rls., is instantly detected by the ship sailing to the left, instead of the right, as in the original. Following this paper, is a short article, apparently by a new candidate for philatelic honours, who signs himself "Warden," and gives an analysis of the different types of the Providence (R. I.) stamps; and to this again succeeds a supplementary list of Egyptian locals, containing a notice of eighty-five varieties.

The editor, in the course of review of Oppen's album, proposes to meet our own objection to the mounting of stamps on both sides of a page, by suggesting "the interpolation of sheets of tissue, or very thin paper; or, better, by employing a separate album for envelopes, thereby affording room in most cases for the adhesives in another; or, as followed by himself and others, getting loose sheets bound to order, or in an album and catalogue cover." These suggestions, we willingly admit, have all more or less to recommend them, but they all interfere with that sweet simplicity of arrangement, which it is necessary to study in an album intended for collectors who are not sufficiently advanced to mount their stamps after a plan of their own in a blank book. Oppen's album is undoubtedly one of the most, if not the most, generally patronised of

books by young collectors. Its low price and attractive covers, have aided in attracting many a recruit to the philatelic ranks; and we are anxious to see it in every way worthy of its position. Now, beginners, and particularly schoolboys, are often rather careless in mounting their stamps; they fasten them completely down, and where two stamps on opposite sides of a page, touch at their backs, there is frequently an unseemly botch. Were the stamps mounted on one side only, such unsightly wrinkles in the paper would not appear; and the increase in the number of sheets would not be so very great if the book were wider and deeper. Many issues, probably the majority, consist of six stamps; and with the present arrangement of five squares in a line, one of the six stamps must be set down in the row beneath; then, unless series follow series without any interval whatever, the remaining four squares must be thrown away to keep a space between them, and constant irregularity of arrangement must be the result. For our part we are convinced, that were a large square album to be published, with six, or for preference, seven squares in a row, it would have the palm over all the rest, other conditions being equal. We present the idea to the publisher of Oppen's, and may suggest that even if he continues to bring out his album in its present size, he might still accompany it by another, termed, say, "Oppen's Enlarged." And, while we are on the point, let us recommend to album editors to insert, not as a regular preface, but as a thing apart, a brief recommendation to beginners, printed in large and prominent type, not to fasten their stamps entirely down. There are hundreds, who, as we said, continue to do so, ignoring the improvements in mounting which of late years have been introduced; and their practice has for its ultimate result the discouragement of them from removing their collection into a newer or better book, when it requires rearrangement. We are tempted to pursue this subject further, forgetful of the heading under which we write; but we will reserve some propositions we have to make, respecting the adoption of an improved form of album, until a future occasion.

Returning now to our muttons—in this instance, the August and September numbers of our Brighton contemporary—we notice, in the course of his answers to correspondents, a reference to M. Berger Levrault, who, the editor fears, has abandoned his intention of publishing an English translation of his work. As our contemporary does not *express* any anxiety as to Mons. Berger Levrault's whereabouts, may we understand that they are known to him? If so, and he can communicate any intelligence respecting that distinguished philatelist, we are sure it will be read with interest, wherever stamps are studied. We, on our side, are glad to be able to state that we had news of Mons. P. Mahé in August, though it was only in the shape of a copy of his journal for July, 1870!

American Journal of Philately.—Both the July and August numbers of our transatlantic contemporary are of a very readable character. The former contains a painstaking article, entitled, "A Collector's Notes on the Stamps of New Granada," written, if we mistake not, by Mr. Tiffany, whose advent as a contributor to philatelic lore we recently noticed; and the "History of the Confederate States Post Office" is found in the latter. This second instalment of Mr. Scott's paper is written in a quiet, business-like style, and we do not observe any more typographical errors, such as appeared in the first paper. It is occupied chiefly in detailing the circumstances which accompanied the establishment of the Confederate post-office, and the regulations which were issued by the postmaster on that occasion. From these latter, it is interesting to note with what a true American instinct, as praiseworthy as it was bold, the most liberal provision was made for the circulation of newspapers, and, in fact, all kinds of literature. One would have anticipated that a newly-founded society, struggling for very existence, would have thought more of screwing a heavy contribution to its war expenses out of the post-office by means of high rates; but no, its rulers, governed by that respect for the power of the press in which they had been bred, modelled their postal constitution after that of the Northern States, and arranged for the

carriage of printed matter on terms which could only prove remunerative in a prosperous and peaceful country. Thus it was enacted that the postage on the regular numbers of a newspaper published weekly should be ten cents per quarter; papers semi-weekly, double; three times a week, treble, and so on; or in all cases less than a halfpenny per copy; whilst for letters the rates were five cents for distances under, and ten cents for those over five hundred miles, "drop letters" being charged two cents each. Printed matter other than books was to be carried at the rate of one cent for three ounces. In these clauses the employment of the series of postage stamps afterwards issued is sketched out. The abortive one cent was intended for printed matter, and also, we suppose, for isolated copies of journals; the two cents was used for drop letters, whilst the five and ten cents franked the letters carried, and not merely delivered by the post, the 20 c. serving for the heavy correspondence.

In one particular the Southern post-office was ahead of its Northern rival; it would not admit the franking privilege, by the abuse of which the regular mails in the United States are, as we are given to understand, swamped by a perpetual stream of documents of no importance. On another detail of postal business the South took rather peculiar ground; it would not allow the registration of letters, for, "in Mr. Offut's opinion, the government ought to take all the precautions possible to prevent *any* letters being lost or stolen, consequently it was a swindle to take money for doing what they ought to do in every case." Perhaps, also, Mr. Offut thought that in a state whose boundaries fluctuated with the results of its battles, it would be inconvenient to guarantee, by any special act, the delivery of letters entrusted to its post-office. We have one other point to refer to in the Confederate regulations, and that is the intention therein expressed to issue stamped envelopes. The article in which it appears provides that payment for postage can be made in money, "until postage stamps and *stamped envelopes* can be procured and distributed. Thus far, then, Mr. Scott's paper, and who will say that, affording

as it does so much food for recollection, it is not well worthy of perusal?

Continuing our examination of the August number, and passing over a remarkably brief and trivial article on new issues, we come to a paper entitled "Boyd's Postage Stamps, By C. H. Coster: a Criticism;" and a criticism in effect it is on Mr. W. D. Atlee's paper on those stamps in our July number. We leave it to our contributor to reply to the observations of Mr. Coster as he may think fit, but we cannot ourselves refrain from testifying to the pleasure which the perusal of this article gave us. It would hardly be American if it did not contain some fling against English writers; but, apart from this customary defect, the article is written in a laudable, truth-seeking spirit, and the writer has evidently taken pains to verify and support his assertions. He has studied the stamps on which he writes, and has evolved his arguments from his studies, which—not to be guilty of the discourtesy we blame in others—we will merely say, *all* American collectors do not. We are, then, glad to welcome him into the ranks of philatelic writers, and shall look forward to the pleasure of meeting him again in print.

We now come to a short letter in the August number, which makes known a fact with which, as far as we are aware, no one on this side of the water is acquainted, namely, the issue of "stamped letters and note sheets" by the United States post-office. The announcement thereof deserves to be reproduced in its entirety, and is as follows:—

To the Editor of *The American Journal of Philately*.

GENTLEMEN,—A short time ago I was looking over the Post-office laws for 1866, and I noticed the mention of "Stamped Letter and Note Sheets," being issued by the Department. Not having seen anything of the kind mentioned in any stamp magazine, I wrote to the P. O. Department, and received the following answer:—

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., Aug. 1st, 1871.

HENRY S. SMITH, Esq.,

Sir:—Yours of the 27th ult. is received, and I reply to your interrogations as follows:—

1st. Stamped letter and note sheets were first issued by this Department on the 1st August, 1861, and their issue was discontinued in April, 1864.

If any are still outstanding they will be recognized in payment of postages, if tendered.

2nd. They cannot be procured at the Department, and

it is not known that any are still out among the Post Offices, for orders were long since given for their recall.

3rd. The only denomination issued was three cents; and only two sizes, note and letter—the price of the former \$3.68, and of the latter, \$3.88 per hundred.

4th. From the foregoing, you will see that I am unable to tell you where you can procure specimens.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

The chance of obtaining any copies of these rare letter and note sheets seems from the foregoing to be very slender, but we hope that the fact of their existence being now known, some American collector will succeed in unearthing a few specimens, and that thus these interesting impressions will not have to be ranked with the "extinct varieties."

And now we would desire, in concluding our review of the leading American stamp journal, to call attention to the very remarkable prices which can be obtained for good stamps in America. Messrs. Scott, the editors, say that "seventy-five dollars (£15) is the highest price we recollect selling one for, but have been offered *double* that amount for some in our private collection." It would be difficult to find any stamps exceeding in rarity the two or three which have been sold on this side of the water for five guineas, and we very much doubt that their equals are to be found in America, yet in that favoured land there are collectors to be found who, for a stamp they do not possess, will count out fifteen pounds, which—even in greenbacks—amount to something, and there are others who will at any rate offer thirty pounds for a single stamp. We must admit that such an offer would to us—loyal stamp-collectors as we are—prove a great temptation, and indeed, after reflection, we are led to believe that only the disinterested philatelist who spent more than £200 in the preparation of a single article for his magazine, could resist it. But, then, in America people do go to *such* extremes.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine always amuses us from its exceeding lack of originality. Its articles on "Newly-issued Stamps,"—and they are generally the only things of a philatelic nature in the stamp department—are alternately copied, with scrupulous fidelity to the text, from the pages of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and

The Philatelist. The source of the borrowed news is always acknowledged by the insertion of our own, or our Brighton contemporary's, title at the end of the extract, but we imagine the stamp-collecting subscribers to *Mason's Magazine* would prefer having some original matter to read; and when one considers how well the study of stamps is repaid by the discovery of hidden facts, and the demonstration of others, it is surprising that the editor of the philatelic department of the journal under review cannot find something to say without borrowing from his *confrères*. This reflection is forced upon us, as we notice with what conspicuous ability its coin department is conducted. The only original matter worthy of notice in the pages devoted to stamp collecting, is an article on "The United States Cigar Stamps," which the editor has been careful to say has been "prepared expressly" for his magazine. We, for our part, are willing to leave it all the honour and fame which that article may bring.

El Averiguador.—The promise of excellence held out by this magazine is fully verified. It devotes several pages to philately, and contains original articles from the pen of Senor M. P. de Figueroa of great interest. In its impression of 1st August appears the engraving of a design purporting to be the one which has been adopted by the Spanish government for its new series of stamps, and we observe that whilst bearing a family resemblance to the type reproduced in our last, it still differs in many respects. The head is on a large scale, larger even than in our type, and is turned to the left, the oval in which it appears is composed of a single line, the four corners are each occupied with a circular disk, containing a useless letter "c," and in the lower margin is the value, 12 CENTS DE PESETA, in small and almost illegible characters. Judging from the comparative merits of the two designs, we should be inclined to back the one reproduced in these pages as being the one really adopted; whilst, on the other hand, we cannot but acknowledge our contemporary's superior opportunity for ascertaining the truth; time, however, will prove which is right.

The number dated the 15th August contains a long and evidently carefully written article on Spanish newspaper stamps, in which Senor P. de Figueroa, after describing the various kinds which have been in use, argues that they are as well worthy of collection as the postage stamps proper, an opinion which we must confess we do not share, as it would tend to render the study of stamps too extensive.

The same writer, in the last number of *El Averiguador*, discourses of the Madrid post-office in the 16th century, the Seville post in 1760, old Spanish postage-stamps, &c. We would venture to recommend to his consideration the publication of a series of brief papers on the stamps of all countries, for the edification of his stamp-collecting countrymen, who have at present no standard work to fall back upon for information.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The last number contains a translation of an article from the Spanish paper just reviewed, on the 12 cuartos 1857 stamp, of which article a translation has also appeared in these pages. The remainder of the number is filled up with Dr. Magnus' paper on the Envelopes of the North German Confederation, in the course whereof is given a table of German envelopes re-issued by the Confederation, and covered with an adhesive stamp, to represent new values. This table we shall take the liberty to reproduce, recognising, as we do, that it is just what has long been wanting.

The Philadelphia Monthly, an amateur magazine for boys, has, like its *confrère*, *Mason's Magazine*, a philatelic department, and, the resemblance still continuing, that department is simply represented by a list of new issues; but here, at any rate, the similarity ends, the description of the lately-issued stamps having been re-written by the editor. We hope, in future numbers, to see the philatelic department graced by the addition of some original and valuable articles, and in that case shall be the first to acknowledge its merit.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide does not increase either in size or interest. It possesses the fault common to nearly all the four-page journals which have appeared, of being all shell and no kernel.

FACTS ABOUT ENVELOPES.

SOME very curious facts have been brought to light within the last few years concerning the history of envelopes, tending to show that these convenient aids to epistolary correspondence have had a longer reign than most of us suppose. It has been customary to believe that the penny post created them; it did not do so, although it vastly extended their use. *The Stationer*, a year or two ago, quoted a letter received from Liverpool, written by a Mr. Brewer, and referring to the period of 1828 or 1830: "About forty years ago, there lived at Brighton a bookseller and stationer, of the name of S. K. Brewer. He used to put in his shop window piles of paper, beginning at the largest up to the smallest size, 16mo; but to finish off the pile, he cut cards so as to bring them up to a point. Ladies used to go in and ask for 'that dear little paper,' which induced him to cut paper in small sizes. Then came the difficulty of a place for the address; and the result was that he invented the envelope, and had metal plates made for cutting them to shapes and sizes. This pleased the ladies, and orders came to him for the little paper and envelopes from all quarters. This at length became such a demand upon his time, that he got Dobbs & Co., of London, to make them for him. Such was the beginning of the envelope trade. When a child, I have just a remembrance of playing with the stencil-plates; and the above account I have had from my mother, who is now alive, and well up in years."

Mr. Brewer may have re-introduced envelopes without knowing of their previous existence; but they *did* exist before, to a certainty. Charles Lamb, in a letter written to Bernard Barton in 1826, said: "When I write to a great man at the court end, he opens with surprise upon a naked note, such as Whitechapel people interchange, with no sweet degrees of *envelope*. I never enclosed one bit of paper in another, nor understood the rationale of it."

Three years earlier, but still during the time of our George the Magnificent, Sweden appears to have done a little in this matter. *Galignani*, some years ago, gave an extract

from a Stockholm newspaper, called *Fryskitten*, to the effect that, in 1823, a Swedish artillery officer, Lieutenant Frekenbar, petitioned the Chamber of Nobles to propose to the government to issue stamped paper, specially destined to serve as envelopes for prepaid letters. The proposition, duly recorded on the Minutes of the Chamber for the 23rd of March in that year, was warmly supported by the Count de Schwerin, on the ground that it would be convenient both to the public and to the post-office; it was, however, rejected by a large majority.

Mr. Foss has described an envelope which contained a letter written in 1766 by Frederick the Great of Prussia to an English officer: the flap is not hinged to one of the long edges, as in our customary envelopes, but to one of the short edges, like some of those used by solicitors. The Egerton Manuscripts comprise a letter, with its envelope, addressed in 1760 by Madame de Pompadour to the Duchesse d'Aiguillon: the envelope is almost exactly like those now used. Going back to the time of George I., we find, in Dean Swift's *Advice to Grub Street Verse-makers*, 1726, the following lines, one word of which we italicise:

Send these to paper-sparing Pope;
And when he sits to write,
No letter with an *envelope*
Could give him more delight.

Thirteen years farther back, in the time of Queen Anne, when Le Sage published the first two volumes of the world-renowned *Gil Blas*, the readers were told of Aurora de Guzman putting two *billets* into an *envelope*. There is in existence an autograph letter written by Louis XIV. to the Count de Toulouse in 1706, enclosed in an envelope addressed by "*le grand monarque*." Ten years earlier, in 1696, a letter was written by Sir John Ogilvie to Sir William Trumbull, Secretary of State, and sent in an envelope: the letter and the envelope are at this present time in the State Paper Office.

We therefore find that for a good hundred and seventy years at least envelopes have been known to and used by letter-writers. It nevertheless remains true that the introduction of penny postage was the means of giving a great spur to this usage, and of establishing a manufacture of much import-

ance and interest, particulars of which have more than once been given in the *Journal*.

There is a matter connected with the *security* of envelopes, which deserves more attention than it usually receives. Once upon a time, the English government were wont to open letters, if suspicion were aroused as to treasonable or unlawful doings of the senders and receivers; and a good deal of skill was shown in this repulsive kind of espionage. It is said that Ralph Allen (the original of Fielding's Squire Allworthy, in *Tom Jones*) made his fortune by opening certain letters which passed through his hands as postmaster at Bath; he was acting with and for the government; his letter-opening exploits led to the discovery of a Jacobite plot, and he was rewarded for his doings. That letters can be opened without much chance of detection, is pretty well known, by tampering either with the wax-seal or with the wafer-cement; and that envelopes can be opened still more easily than letters is also known; because, among other reasons, the envelope is at once torn and thrown aside, the enclosed letter (which has neither seal nor wafer upon it) being alone preserved. A country postmaster was convicted of surreptitiously opening letters about fourteen years ago; and a learned witness explained how it was probably done. As we are *not* learned witnesses, we will not explain; for it is a kind of cleverness by no means desirable to cultivate. A kind of metallic envelope was invented some years ago. It consisted of a capsule which, when once closed, could not be opened without tearing the paper. It was said to be effective, but was not commercially successful; so it was withdrawn. One thing may be said, that if a letter or envelope is both wafered or cemented and sealed, a surreptitious opening becomes more difficult. If, in sealing, a little hot wax is dropped under the flap, the security is increased. It may also be mentioned that thin envelopes are more secure than thick; the adhesive cement goes more thoroughly into the substance of the former than of the latter, and they can be less easily opened without tearing the paper.—*Chambers's Journal*.

THE MANUFACTURE or VICTORIAN POSTAGE STAMPS.

In the upper rooms of the general post-office facilities are afforded for the manufacture of postage stamps on a scale commensurate with the requirements of a colony like Victoria. It was the practice of the government prior to 1859 to perform the work by contract, but irregularities crept in, and it was deemed advisable that a special branch should be created, in order that the postal authorities might interpose a salutary check upon the possibility of fraud. We gather from the report of the post-office for last year that no less than 12,635,148 stamps were manufactured, representing in the aggregate the sum of £134,182. The statistics are interesting, as indicating in some degree the requirements of the colonists. Stamped newspaper wrappers, of the value of 1d., were first issued in September last, and envelopes with a two-penny stamp thereon in November. The denominations of stamps issued last year were:—

Penny newspaper wrappers	..	..	327,000
Penny postage stamps	..	..	2,088,000
Twopenny ditto	..	..	8,518,320
Blank envelopes, received from the public and embossed with the twopenny stamp			1,600
Twopenny embossed envelopes, at 2s. 3d. per dozen	..	..	41,028
Threepenny postage stamps	..	..	121,200
Fourpenny ditto	..	..	156,000
Sixpenny ditto	..	..	1,200,000
Tenpenny ditto	..	..	120,000
Two-shilling ditto	..	..	24,000
Five-shilling ditto	..	..	45,000
Total	..	..	12,635,148

Whilst Victoria was a dependency of New South Wales, the postage stamps of that colony were in use here. Postage stamps were first issued in New South Wales in 1849. The number of letters circulating in Port Phillip, one year after the separation of the colony, was 972,176, whilst those of New South Wales were only 971,318. During the last year the number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched were no less than 10,587,711 letters, 376,039 packets, and 5,251,327 newspapers.

For the requirements of a postal department having operations of such magnitude,

the work of manufacturing postage stamps becomes a matter of some importance. The first part of the process is the making of the steel dies, which, by means of the electrotpe, are multiplied, in order to expedite the process of printing. Impressions from the dies are stamped upon lead, which are afterwards placed in a decomposing trough connected with a galvanic battery, and when the requisite thickness of deposit has been obtained, the copper is detached, and afterwards mounted and printed from. By this means any number of dies are procured, and to facilitate the work of printing, they are reproduced in hundreds, and when set up are placed in the printing-machine. The process of printing from these dies differs in no way from the ordinary operations of printing. There are several hand-presses at work, which are capable of supplying stamps at the rate of half a million per month. The paper used bears a watermark, in which consists the principal check that the department has against spurious imitations; but the mere use of a watermarked paper would not of itself be a sufficient precaution to guard against fraud, and it is therefore necessary that the strictest supervision should be exercised over the operations of the printers and the delivery of the paper; everything is kept under lock and key; the workmen are locked in to their work; each printing-press is fitted with an indicator, which records the number of sheets printed, and it is the duty of the officers to close each day's work by verifying the number of stamps printed with the paper issued; and the press, when not in operation is locked up with a Chubb's patent detector lock, which is proof against the manipulations of the most accomplished burglar.

The embossed twopenny stamp is of comparatively recent date. It no doubt supplies a want which mercantile men can appreciate, though it has not yet come into general use. To facilitate the distribution of this stamp, an embossing machine has been imported from Messrs. De La Rue and Co., of a character similar to those in use in England and on the Continent. As a piece of machinery, it is in itself one of the marvels of human ingenuity. The design of the embos-

sed stamp is the Queen's head in relief, on a delicate rose pink ground, with the words POSTAGE TWOPENCE surrounding it. The machine will print some sixty impressions per minute. The operation of the machine may be described simply as punching the embossed stamp by a perpendicular rise and fall of the die. The colours are applied to each impression by mechanical contrivances from a series of rollers passing under and into distributors. The machinery is turned by manual labour, as being, for the present, more economical. The duty of the operator is to bring an envelope beneath the die as it rises and falls, which requires considerable dexterity, and a strict sense of duty, inasmuch as the machine records each motion, for which the operator must make account, in the shape of embossed envelopes, or his negligence is likely to meet with the reprehension of the inspector of the postage-stamp department.

The new stamp act came into operation on the 1st January, 1870. This act repeals so much of the post-office statute as authorised the postmaster-general to issue licenses for the sale of postage stamps, and vests this power in the minister who shall administer the stamp act. It also reduces the commission to be allowed to licensed vendors from 5 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and makes it necessary that not less than £10 worth of stamps shall be purchased at one time to entitle the vendor to any commission. It is expected that this alteration in the law will have the effect of reducing the number of persons who sell postage stamps, and the change, therefore, will not, so far as the dealings of the public with this department are concerned, prove a desirable one.—*Melbourne Daily Telegraph*.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

JAPAN.—In further reference to the series of stamps which has just been issued, the following extract from *The Hiogo News*, a Japanese paper, will be read with interest.

We have just seen, for the first time, some specimens of the new Japanese postage labels. They are all of the same design, but of four different colours; the brown re-

presents 48 zeni, or half a tempo; the blue, one tempo; the red, two tempoes; the green, five tempoes; i.e., about five cents. These stamps are square in size, and have evidently been designed after the French postage stamps, which they resemble in size and shape.

They are apparently engraved from copper plates. The outer border of the design is not unlike the well-known Etruscan key border; next to this is an ornamental edging, of a Vandyke pattern. Inside this is a repetition of the well-known and seemingly irrepressible Kiu, or dragon, whose portrait figures so conspicuously upon the old Kinsatz and on the new coins. Finally, in the centre are some characters printed in black ink, which stand for, in the case of the red stamps, the words "Zeni, Nihyaku mon," the amount which the stamp represents.

The postage for a letter weighing five momme ($\frac{1}{8}$ oz.) is 15 tempoes, about half a bee, or say \$0.12. A foreign merchant of Osaka informs us that he sent a letter recently through the imperial post office, and has since heard that it was received in Yedo within three days of the date of its dispatch from Osaka. Advantage has also been taken by foreigners to forward letters by this route, when the steamer leaving Kobe has been missed, in order to catch the mail before it left Yokohama.

Our Brussels contemporary, in noticing these stamps, confirms *The Philatelist's* statement that the values are expressed in fractions of the *ichebu*, termed *tenpo*, which he says equals 10 centimes; and as he gives the values as $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 3 tenpos, his list virtually agrees with ours.

DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION Co.—Correcting the intelligence given in these pages, M. Moens states, from information received from the company, that the 10 soldi stamps in dark red, were the result of a printer's error, and that green remains the normal colour.

SPAIN.—The accession of King Amadeus has led to a fresh change in the armorial bearings, which now consist of two lions and two towers, in the four corners as before, and the cross of Savoy in the centre, the whole surmounted by the royal crown. A handstamp bearing this device, and destined for the use of members of the senate, has just made its appearance. Like its predecessors, it is inscribed SENADO CORREO, is oval, and is printed blue.

A second stamp has the towers and lions, plus the Granadian emblem, in the point of the shield, and the Savoy cross, replacing the Bourbon lilies in the centre, the shield being surmounted by the royal crown. Above the arms is a scroll, inscribed COMUNICACIONES, and below, on a second scroll, EL DIRECTOR GRAL. The impression is in black.

BAVARIA.—In our August number we noticed the appearance of a perforated 1 kreuzer black unpaid-letter stamp; this has since been joined by a perforated 3 kreuzer black, and this latter has submitted to some change in details, the inscriptions having been re-set. The annexed engraving obviates the necessity of further description.



UNITED STATES.—*Envelopes of the October, 1870 series.*—We have specimens of the 15 cents and 90 cents before us, completing the series; they bear the same heads as their equivalent adhesives, and of the five highest values, they supply us with the handsomest and the least pleasant—we can hardly say "the ugliest," when none are ugly. The 15 c. has the numerals in a transverse oval on each side; the 90 c. bears them in a handsomely pointed shield, very different from the flattened-out affair on the 24 c.; indeed, in nearly every respect this stamp far excels all the others in finish. The colours of the six highest values, and their variations, consisting chiefly in the dispositions of the numerals at sides, which are embossed in white on shields, circles, &c., are as under:—

In quatrefoils,	10 c. clear brown.
In " "	black brown.
In circles,	12 c. dull purple-black.
In transverse ovals,	15 c. red-orange.
In transverseshields,	24 c. rich violet.
In oblong octagons,	30 c. jet black.
In upright shields,	90 c. carmine.

The entire envelopes quoted in our February impression require revision as to measurement. Our specimens do not agree with the sizes given by *The Mercury*.

ST. THOMAS AND LA GUAIRA.—We extract from the letter of a correspondent in St. Thomas the following information:—

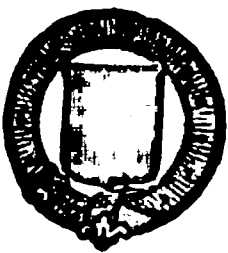
I enclose, as a curiosity, a hand-stamp, which was impressed on letters coming from Venezuela by the steamer *Robert Todd*. This was in 1866, when the first issue of adhesive stamps (small figures in angles, and small perforations) gave out, pending the receipt of a further supply. This hand-stamp was used to denote the prepayment of postage on letters. Only the other day, in looking over old letters, my attention was called to it. It does not seem to have been used for any length of time, as I did not find many of them.

The stamp referred to is circular,—the outer circle consists of two lines, the inner of one—and between the circles is the inscription, running the whole way round, ST. THOMAS LA GUAIRA & PO. CABELLO STEAM PACKET; in the centre is a steamer, sailing to left. The impression, a tolerably clear one, is in black; next month we shall present an engraving of this newly-discovered variety.

THE DECCAN.—One of our correspondents writes us that a friend of his, an Indian judge, acquainted with Arabic, has informed him that the first stamp—the oblong sea-green—was issued on the 1st September, 1869, was of the value of one anna, and bears an inscription in Arabic, consisting of the year 1283 of the Hegira, and “*Swikar Ar-mofera*”—“Government of the Nizam.”

NEW SOUTH WALES.—In our August number we noticed the emission of a penny envelope, the stamp whereof is identical in design with the penny adhesive, and we promised to reproduce the design which ornaments the flap. We have now the pleasure to perform our promise.

URUGUAY.—It is announced that the 5 and 10 centimes will shortly be superseded by fresh designs, which are now being engraved in England, and will be perforated. The 15 and 20 c. will continue in circulation for some time to come.



NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

IV.

THE stamp I now have the pleasure to introduce, in counterpart, is the rare Whittelsey described last month, but not engraved in time for publication. It will be noticed that the design is much better than that generally adopted for the American locals.



I find the final sentence in my last paper must be cancelled, as I have since seen a forgery of the smallest Pomeroy stamp. It is of

poor execution, but must be mentioned for the benefit of young collectors. In the originals the letters are large and even, but in the shams they are small, and the final s in EXPRESS is of much less size than any of the other letters. These imitations are printed in sundry colours, including gold on red, and green on white, in addition to the orthodox tints.

AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY.

Upon casually referring to my second paper, I found that I had omitted two varieties of the largest stamp of this express. The complete list is as follows:—

Black upon bluish white, thin paper.
 ” ” yellowish ” stout ”
 Blue ” ” ” ” ”

HANFORD'S PONY EXPRESS.

This company was in operation during 1850, but when it was established I have not as yet discovered. The earliest stamp used was a black hand-struck impression, placed upon any envelopes or sheets of paper sent to the office for that purpose. The design consisted of an oblong oval, lettered HANFORD'S above, PONY EXPRESS POST below, and 2 and c's. at each side, respectively. In the centre was a mounted courier, riding towards the left. This stamp was presumably provisional, as an adhesive was afterwards adopted. Original copies of the latter are very scarce, but the type is well known, owing to the counterfeits which have flooded many a collection.

Within a double-lined transverse oval frame is a pony-mounted messenger; at top is HANFORD'S, and at bottom PONY EXPRESS. The value 2 cts. is placed as in the earliest stamp. The impression is black upon dull yellow paper, slightly *glacé*.

I know of two forgeries, one of which is very deceptive, and, as regards execution, equals the genuine. The following are the leading points in the latter:—

The pony is shaded obliquely, and the rider's arm is distinct; HAN smaller than the other letters; the apostrophe after D slants towards the right; the E of EXPRESS is very small; under the pony there is but little shading, and the bottom stroke is touched by the animal's fore-foot.

The best forgery is detected by the apostrophe after *D* slanting towards the left. The *E* of *EXPRESS* matches the other letters, and the pony's fore-foot is upon the uppermost line of shading. In the coarser imitation, the pony's fore-leg runs nearly into the *P*, and the 2 is much smaller than in the genuine.

SNOW'S DESPATCH.

My information respecting this post is *nil*, and my knowledge of the stamp used is meagre. I am only able to mention that a label really was issued, and that it was a miserable little production, of small size and still more wretched execution. Between two wavy ornaments is the name of the company, in two lines, and between the lettering a stroke; printed in black upon blue paper of peculiar make. The only copy known to me fetched as much as two guineas; this will give some idea of its rarity.

MARTIN'S CITY POST.

The introductory remarks upon the last described stamp will also apply to the one emitted by this company. The label is almost unique (so far as collectors are concerned), and has for design a small oblong frame of pearls, enclosing the inscription, *MARTIN'S CITY POST, PAID—2 CTS.* It is printed in black upon lilac.

CUMMING'S CITY POST.

This company was in business during 1846, and carried letters in New York. It has gained philatelic immortality by producing the worst engraved of all the American locals. They first used a hand-stamp, which was not quite so bad, and for originality has not been surpassed by any of its companions. The device was a locomotive galloping on legs, having the value 2 and cts., in small squares, at each side; above was *CUMMING'S*, and below *EXPRESS*. This was struck in red, and was probably put on at the office when the postages of the letters were paid for. I am inclined to this opinion from the fact that packets bearing the adhesive labels are sometimes found surcharged with the impression in question.

The design of the adhesive consists of a sealed letter within a circle, which circle is intersected above by a straight line. At top

is *CUMMING'S*; upon the right side, *CITY*; upon the left, *POST*; and at foot, 2 cts. The whole within a square frame, and printed in black on pink paper.

There is a very fair counterfeit, which is generally sold in black upon green, and on white, but it also exists upon paper approximating to the colour of the originals.

In the genuine, the shading upon the lower portion of the letter is very close at the bottom, and gradually widens as it rises; whereas, in the forged, the lines are all wide apart, there being only seven upon the left side, and six on the right. Another test is, that in the imitation the upper portion of the letter touches the circle, instead of being at some little distance from it, as in the archetype.

CORNWELL POST OFFICE, N. Y.

It is a little more than twenty years since this express was established in New York. The solitary stamp issued was about on a par with *Cumming's* badly executed label, and has therefore probably been despised very often as rubbish. Within an oval is a portrait (presumably of Washington), partly encircled by the inscription *POST OFFICE—MADISON SQUARE*. Above, upon a riband, is *CORNWELL*. The whole enclosed in a rectangular frame, perpendicularly lined, and with truncated angles containing dots. Printed in brick-red upon bluish paper.

There are two forgeries, one much too clearly done, and the other so bad that it might be easily mistaken for the original. The following are the main points in which the genuine and counterfeit differ:—

In the former, the letters of *POST* and *SQUARE* are very indistinct, and a bend is plainly shown in the upper riband, above the *C* in *OFFICE*. The shapeless ornament in the lower right angle is much larger than the one upon the left, and almost touches the bottom line of frame.

In the finest made forgery, the letters above named are, as I have previously said, too distinct, and the *T* in *POST* is much longer than the other letters. The corner ornaments are almost of one size, and there is no noticeable bend in the lettered riband.

The other imitation can be detected by

the absence of shading upon the forehead, which in the genuine and the other counterfeit is shown by four lines.

GOVERNMENT CITY DISPATCH.

The stamps issued by this company had for device a mounted horseman, riding towards the right. Upon a scroll, held in his left hand and going over his shoulder, is the value—ONE CENT. Above and below are ribands, lettered, respectively, GOVERNMENT and CITY DISPATCH. The whole within an oblong frame, perpendicularly lined. Printed upon white paper, in black and in red.

Genuine.—The lettering is thick, and of the same class throughout. Both the fangs of the riband containing value touch the tail of the upper label. All the rays are connected with the riband. Only the toes of the courier's foot come below the body of the horse. The greatest test is the angles, and more particularly the upper ones, for in them are found sundry white specks and dashes, favouring the idea that it was the engraver's original intention to have added some further ornamentation. The line at each side of the stamp has degenerated into dots.

Forgeries.—I know of a couple of imitations, both fairly made. In one, the three first letters in GOVERNMENT and the C of CITY are thinner than the other letters. The lower fang of the riband, holding value, touches that of the topmost label, but the upper fang does not. The fifth ray from the right is merely a short dash from the horse's ear, not extending so far as the riband. The whole of the rider's foot is below the horse. There is no break in the angles.

The other counterfeit is rather deceptive, but shows various leading differences. Instead of the single dotted line at each side, there are three distinct parallel strokes, and the riband holding ONE CENT does not go against the upper label.

UNITED STATES EXPRESS MAIL.

As these papers are written with the twofold object of imparting and obtaining information, I think it not out of order to describe an envelope now lying before me. It is directed to San Francisco, and bears a red circular hand-struck impression, inscribed

U. S. EXPRESS MAIL, BOSTON, MASS. In the centre is the date, but, according to the usual American system, no year is given. From certain surrounding I am, however, able to fix it between 1850 and 1852.

It would be interesting to know if this express issued a stamp, and to have some particulars concerning it.

PLEASANT PAGES.

We English are a slow, matter-of-fact people, very far behind the enlightened foreigner, as every candid newspaper exultingly admits. We let our ships run aground, and our cavalry horses run away, whilst we cannot camp out a few thousand men in distant Berkshire; but, admitting these grave indictments, there still exist some few institutions in this country to which we English may point with pride, and among them must be classed the post office. "The Right Honourable the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury" have recently had a few pleasant pages to read respecting the post-office, in the shape of a report on its progress, presented to them by Mr. Monsell, and a copy thereof is now before us, the perusal of which has given birth with us to the sentiment expressed in our opening sentence. We are English enough to admire an establishment which, whilst it grows, *pays*, and this the General Post Office emphatically does. A sum of fourteen hundred thousand pounds paid over to the government represents the honourable gains of that office during the year 1870; and this respectable balance is attained notwithstanding important reductions in the rates in that period, coupled with the granting of increased facilities for cheap correspondence. It was in October of last year that the halfpenny stamps, cards, and wrappers were issued, and Mr. Monsell's report dilates on the numbers which have already been issued, showing that in the three months following their appearance, there was an augmentation of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the number of newspapers forwarded. The figures he quotes are significant of the success of the reduced rates, and if we refrain from reproducing them here, it is simply from the fear that our

readers, sharing our hatred of statistical articles, might, on catching sight of the obnoxious numerals, absolutely refuse to even glance at the context. Let us, then, pass at once to the most interesting portion of the post-office report, that which treats of the difficulties thrown in the way of postal communication by the late war, and the energetic manner in which they were met. Here Mr. Monsell may be allowed to speak for himself.

Very early in the campaign it became necessary to make fresh arrangements for forwarding to their destination mails which had previously gone through France. The first to be diverted from their ordinary course were naturally the mails from Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and other parts of South Germany, and these were soon followed by the mails exchanged between this country and Italy and Greece. Owing to a reduction of transit rates, which had just formed the subject of a new Postal Convention with the North German Confederation, the change of route was not in any case attended with an increase of postage.

Meanwhile the vessels belonging to the North German Lloyd, which sail under the German flag, had ceased running, and it had become necessary to send to Liverpool, for despatch by the Cunard or Inman packets on Saturdays, the mails for New York which used to leave *via* Southampton on Tuesdays. This reduction in our means of communication with America entailed considerable inconvenience upon the public, at the same time that the diversion of the mails to Liverpool caused a pressure of some severity upon the packet office there, as well as upon the office in Dublin, through which the return mails pass on their way to England.

The subsequent withdrawal of some of the French packets still further interrupted our communications. The packets for Malta went only thrice a month, instead of once a week; whilst others, as, for instance, those leaving St. Nazaire for the West Indies on the 8th of every month, were suspended altogether.

As the war proceeded and the hostile forces approached Paris, the risk of interruption to our Indian mails became more and more imminent, and caused serious uneasiness to the Department. This feeling, which was not long in communicating itself to the public, the subsequent investment of the capital served to enhance. The mails had now to branch off at Amiens and go round by Rouen and Tours, at a cost, in point of time, of from 30 to 40 hours; but even this circuitous route could not long be depended upon, and nothing remained but to abandon Marseilles altogether as the line of communication for our Indian mails. There was only one alternative—to send them through Belgium and Germany by the Brenner Pass to Brindisi, and thence by Italian packets to Alexandria, a route which has not since been departed from.

But it was in respect to the mails for France herself, and especially for Paris, that the greatest perplexity prevailed. As soon as Amiens was threatened—Amiens, the very keystone of our postal communication with the interior and South of France—it became evident that the route *via* Calais would not remain available much longer. The alternative routes that presented themselves were *via* Dieppe and *via* Cherbourg or St. Malo, and no time was lost in making the necessary arrangements with the Brighton and South-western Railway Companies. By both companies trains were kept in constant readiness at

the terminus in London, and vessels remained under steam at Newhaven and Southampton, prepared to start at the shortest notice, according to the course events might take. Late in the evening of the 26th of November intelligence was received in London that the line of communication through Amiens was closed, and the mails were diverted from Calais to Cherbourg; within the next four days Cherbourg was exchanged for Dieppe; and Dieppe soon afterwards for St. Malo.

This much for the war and its effects. Hardly less interesting is the account of the post-office negotiations. St. Martin's-le-Grand has its own ambassadors, who start on their missions accredited by Her Majesty's Postmaster General, and who generally succeed in getting some much-desired reduction in rate, or change in route, agreed to. Thus Mr. Page, one of the assistant under-secretaries of the office went to Berlin early in 1870, obtained the lowering of the rate for letters to Germany from 6d. to 3d., and made arrangements for a reduction of transit charge on all British mails passing through Germany, the value of which was unexpectedly proved a few months afterwards, when all the Indian mails had to travel by the Brenner pass to Brindisi. Respecting this change of road the postmaster says—

Between Brindisi and London the distance is 1,734 miles. By the first outward mail the journey was accomplished in 79½ hours, or within one hour of the time set down in the itinerary drawn up by the Italian post-office, being at an average speed of about 22 miles an hour, including all delays necessary for the several transfers of the mails from boat to railway, and *vice versa*. By the first homeward mail the distance was traversed in 89½ hours.

The Italian packets, by which, on the first adoption of the route the mails were conveyed between Brindisi and Alexandria, have since been replaced by those of the Peninsular and Oriental Company from Marseilles; and the department, thus relieved from its payment to Italy on account of sea service, has been enabled to make a small reduction in the postage.

On the whole the change from Marseilles to Brindisi has been decidedly advantageous to the public. *Via* Brindisi the postage is lower than it was *via* Marseilles; and the route has proved to be the more expeditious of the two.

He adds,

I am happy to be able to report that further steps have been taken towards the removal of the inconvenient quarter-ounce scale. In January last an agreement was come to with Italy to adopt the unit of half an ounce, except as regards letters between this country and Sicily transmitted by French packet, which, owing to the amount payable to France for conveyance, could not be included without augmenting the postage. Even in respect to these, however, some small advantage has been given in respect to weight, and the 3rd of an ounce can now be sent for the same postage as was formerly charged upon the quarter ounce.

The quarter ounce scale has also given place to the scale of a third of an ounce in the case of letters between this country and Spain.

Let us hope that the time is not far distant when half an ounce shall be the universal weight for a single letter. The International Conference will perhaps settle this point. Meanwhile our own authorities have settled that the rate for our internal postage is to be an ounce, and they will certainly find it to their profit thus to broaden the facilities for correspondence. In this country, every reduction in rates has been followed by an increase in revenue; but it must not be forgotten, that, whilst giving full sway to a liberal policy, the administration also studies very carefully the wants of every postal district under its charge; augmenting the number of deliveries, and so arranging the mail service as to permit of posting up till a later hour. And yet withal, if we are to believe *The Standard*, the poorer classes contribute only an infinitesimal drop to the ever increasing flood of correspondence, the direction of which requires all the tact and energy of the post-office.

We have to remember, says *The Standard*, the enormous correspondence carried on by single firms, the swarms of circulars issued, the sackfuls daily sent out from thousands of offices, the perpetual flux and reflux of correspondence in public and fashionable life; the manner, indeed, in which the local post is often monopolised almost by a few individuals; the delight which large classes of idle persons feel in writing to their acquaintance; and a hundred other circumstances, and we shall experience, perhaps, a little less admiration of the grand total 940,000,000, of the 10,000,000 yards of string used in tying up letters for the country; of the 17,000 pounds weight of sealing wax consumed in St. Martin's-le-Grand in sealing the 700,000 country bags; and the four tons of ink exhausted in the stamping of letters in England alone. The circulation is, as yet, restricted; it beats backwards and forwards through regular channels; it is opening a way into others, of course but not so rapidly as upon a first thought we might fancy.

The general masses of the poor—all classes of them, speaking broadly—write and receive few letters. The proportion varies, of course; there are those whose correspondence, if limited, is pretty regular; others at whose doors the postman's knock is rarely heard, except upon the arrival of a colonial mail; many whom the sight of a letter actually addressed to themselves would overwhelm with excitement. We do not suppose that there is any great activity of the postal service among the humbler denizens of the East-end, or the weavers of the midland, or the miners and metal workers of the Black Country. The agricultural labourer, as a rule, does not tax the department greatly. In many a village, and even small town, when the postman appears, it is pretty well known

beforehand at whose houses he will call. Rarely does he stop at the wayside cottages of our strictly rural districts. Even at ordinary farm-houses his visits are rather periodical than desultory. Communication in the country is still carried on by means of "messages" among the classes we speak of, and even those above them; whereas in the metropolis, and other great cities, a letter posted in one street has to be delivered in the next. Throughout extensive spaces of Ireland, Scotland, and the Principality, letters are seldom received, unless at "the great houses," though, undoubtedly, the Post Office is pushing its way. As to postal cards, it may be questioned whether they hitherto have been, in any important degree, appreciated by the poor, with whom the folding and fastening of a letter is scarcely less a solemnity than the writing of it. All this, none of which, we think, will be denied, shows that the department has still before it almost limitless opportunities of expansion.

There is a certain amount of truth in these assertions, but there is also a great deal of exaggeration. There is no doubt that the country people do correspond far more than they once did—to the full measure, in fact, of their improved education. If they write five letters per annum now, it is probably three more than they would have written twenty years ago. The railway separates and breaks up poor families as well as rich; and such disruption necessarily brings about correspondence.

NEW FRENCH STAMPS.

In the last days of August the French assembly voted a new and retrograde postal tariff, with intent to obtain from the post-office a portion of the wherewithal to pay off the Prussians. We have good reason, however, for believing that it will result not in profit but in loss to the government, and cannot but feel surprised that French statesmen should be so blind to the lessons conveyed by the postal revenue of other countries as to pin their faith to the high rates for whose adoption they have voted. Yet when M. Wolowski raised his voice in the assembly against the augmentations, he was met by the stereotyped cry that five millions had to be provided for, and further discussion was stifled. In an able letter which appeared in the *Journal des Débats*, the veteran free trader, M. Michel Chevalier, demonstrated that the true road to profit lay through diminished postal rates, but all to no purpose; the French deputies persisted in raising the rate for a single letter, weighing the third of

an ounce, from 20 to 25 centimes, ignoring the almost certain fact that where five letters have hitherto been written, only four, or even three, will be sent in future.

However, for better or for worse, the act of the assembly has gone forth, and the new tariff has been published. The principal rates are the following:—

<i>Letters</i> posted and delivered within the same district, and not exceeding 15 grammes for Paris, or 10 grammes for the provinces 15 centimes.			
From town to town, not exceeding 10 grammes	25	"	"
"	20	"	40
"	50	"	70
"	100	"	1 f. 20
<i>Circulars.</i>	5	"	2
"	10	"	3

Three stamps consequently disappear from the French series, viz., the 1, 10, and 20 centimes, and five require to be added, viz., 3, 15, 25, and 70 centimes, and 1 f. 20 c. The 15 and 25 c. are already in circulation, but nothing is said of the higher values; yet they will evidently be required, as the rates of 70 c. and of 1 f. 20 c. can neither be formed with less than three stamps.

We have included a 3 centime stamp among the requirements, as it is not likely the 1 centime will be maintained merely to be employed in conjunction with the 2 centime, to form the new rate for 10 gramme circulars.

The 15 and 25 centime stamps, respectively, are the exact counterparts of the 10 and 20 c., even to the colours, the former being bistre and the latter blue. This has already been the subject of complaint in Paris, and mistakes are certainly likely to arise so long as the 10 and 20 c. continue in circulation, especially as the figures of value are so small.

The immediate application of the new rates was also grumbled at, because there were no new stamps to represent them. A five centime stamp had to be added to the 10 c. or 20 c. for local or ordinary letters, as the case might be, but the stock of five centimes ran short in many places. The 5 c. of the empire reappeared, the stamps being either remainders or a government re-issue; but many offices remained unsupplied, and we have seen a great number of letters prepaid with a 20 centime stamp coupled with three 1 c. and a 2 c., or a 4 c. and a 1 c.

We also keep, as a curiosity, a letter franked with a 20 c. stamp and the *half* of a 10 c., diagonally cut, probably attached at the post office.

A short time before the new tariff was voted, there appeared in one of the Paris papers a statement that M. Rampont, the postmaster, was about to adopt the post-card system, and issue 5 and 10 centime cards, the former for Paris, the latter for the provinces, but in the assembly a proposal made by one of its members, to the effect that post cards should be issued was negatived, in consequence of M. Rampont's opposition. The Paris journal above referred to coupled its information respecting post cards with a statement that stamped envelopes were about to be issued, and that it had been decided not to obliterate them in the post-office. We fear, however, this intelligence is not well founded, and it certainly comes in bad company.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Descriptive Price Catalogue of Government Postage Stamps. WILLIAM P. BROWN: New York. 1871.

THIS is a neat and serviceable publication, carefully compiled by a gentleman who, we believe, with perfect justice, claims to have been the second in America to engage in the stamp trade. He prefaces his list with a few well chosen observations on the spread of philately in general, and his own trade in particular. We incidentally learn from this preface that that unique little journal, *The Curiosity Cabinet* has ceased to exist, having probably been unable to keep the field against its older rivals. Another interesting little item from the same source is the following:—

We have in our store a collection of over 1200 varieties of counterfeit stamps, the property of C. H. Coster, of this city, which our friends may examine at their pleasure.

Mr. Coster has just made his appearance as a writer on stamp subjects, and his possession of this extensive collection of forgeries is a proof of his assiduity in study. His opinion on any question involving the character of stamps will certainly be entitled to considerable weight.

Returning now to Mr. Brown's catalogue, we have no hesitation in recommending it to the notice of our American subscribers, for we have long known its author, and have never had reason to regret having made his acquaintance.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

SOMETHING LEFT OUT.—In the Postmaster General's last report we read that "in London alone above ten million yards of string were used in 1870 for tying up letters for the country, and above 17,000 lbs. of sealing-wax for securing the 700,000 bags, and 4 tons of ink were used in England for impressing postmarks on letters." There is a most extraordinary omission in these statistics of a great government department—not a word is said about red tape!—*Punch*.

WHAT'S IN A NAME.—It is stated that the United States post-office department has just made a decision in reference to the titles that may be placed on the new stamped envelopes which are furnished with printed addresses. It is held that honorary prefixes, such as Judge, Colonel, Professor, Reverend, Doctor, &c., by which an individual is generally known and styled in his community, may be printed on the envelopes, but that no suffixes, such as A.B., A.M., M.D., &c., can be allowed.—*Times*.

UPON THE INTRODUCTION of the halfpenny post cards, the authorities entered into a contract with the firm of De La Rue & Watham for the manufacturing and printing of them. The contract was for three years, and the number ordered was 100,000,000. The present rate of consumption is 1,500,000 a week, or 78,000,000 a year, and, therefore, 234,000,000 in three years. Before the end of the first twelve months, it is not at all unlikely that the consumption will reach 100,000,000 a year. Here is another instance of the growth of the British Post-Office.—*Bullionist*.

THE INDIAN MAIL.—We met the Indian mail. A coach-and-four, was it? or a palki? A swift dromedary, or an elephant? No. The bags conveying all the threats, commands, and resolutions of love-making and money-making were carried on the back of a native runner, who with his lantern and small bells hurried past us! It is in this primeval fashion that the postal communications of Southern and Central India are kept up. The "post" goes at a conscientious trot, and soon transfers his bags and responsibilities to another. So on it goes, until all letters are duly delivered at their final destination.—*Peeps at the Far East*.

INQUIRE ABROAD FOR NEWS AT HOME.—A well-known dealer sends us the following:—A few weeks back, I wrote to my correspondent in the Azores, requesting him to obtain for me some of the new 5 reis stamps for that colony. He replied, "On applying at the post-office for the quantity you require, I was informed that not even an eighth part was on hand; that if I wished it, the quantity would be sent for from Lisbon, to come by the mail-boat next month," &c. He concludes by stating that they will be sent off from the Azores on 1st June. When they *do* come they will doubtless be the new issue; notwithstanding, my correspondent writes (in answer to an inquiry of mine), "There is no new issue of stamps. To make sure, I asked the postmaster; and was informed by him, that not only were there no new stamps,

but a fresh emission was not even in contemplation." After writing the above, he prepays his letter in stamps of 25 reis of the new issue!

CORRESPONDENCE.

FRENCH COUNTERFEITS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that I believe the perforated forgeries of the French Republic, 1870, referred to in the June number, are identical with those issued by Messrs. Letts & Son on their facsimile of a balloon letter. Trusting this intelligence may prove of interest.

I remain, yours obediently,
Portsmouth. C. J. H.

"LIQUOR AMMONIA FORTIS."

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, R. C. Hope, must not put too great faith in his carmine 6 cents United States stamp, for I have found that, when carefully wetted with *liquor ammonia fortis*, this, and other stamps of a similar shade, will turn to a decided carmine tint. It is possible that his stamp may have been so "doctored."

Yours obediently,
Birmingham. R. B. E.

A TASMANIAN NOVELTY.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—A stamp has just come into my possession which I do not find catalogued anywhere.

Shape, rectangular.

Colour, green on white paper.

Inscribed above, TASMANIA, in white letters.

Inscribed below, THREE PENCE, in green letters.

In small oval on each side, on solid disc, the figure 3.

The design in centre of stamp looks like a view of high mountains.

The shape of the frame of the stamp is very like the "Victoria" stamps, 3d. blue, 1866; 4d. pink, 1866.

Can you tell me anything about it?

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
L. J. N.

THE "STAFFORD-SMITH" ALBUMS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I should like it to be known that for four years I have collected in a "Stafford-Smith" album, and have never had the least difficulty in putting in new issues. My plan is this: I cut as many extra pages as I want to the size and shape required, rule them in red ink, and mount them on the guards which occur throughout the book. This plan does not in the least spoil the appearance of the book, or make it what Mr. Overy Taylor appropriately calls "podgy." By adopting this plan I have always found space for all new issues, and it has never occasioned the slightest inconvenience.

I have several specimens of the English 2d., present issue, with inverted watermark; also different values of Hong Kong.

Trusting these remarks may prove of some use,

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
Hamsterley. HANOVERIAN.

THE HAITIAN STAMP.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In vol. vi, p. 163, you figure and describe the above stamp, but put the editorial extinguisher pretty well over it. That you justly term it *was carotte*, I do not take upon me to deny; but I should be glad if you would insert this note in your next, in order to elicit the opinion of the learned on the subject.

My copy, which I have had about eighteen months only, bears two post(?)marks. 1. In oval frame, the name TIBURON, with MAI 6, in centre; this, saving the ends of oval, is clear; colour, blue. 2. Nearly a semi-circle of 3 concentric dotted lines; colour, blue.

Tiburon is a town near the cape so named, at the western extremity of the island.

Yours,

WARDEN.

Begadot.

[Whilst admitting that copies of this design are not very frequently met with, we still do not see any sufficient reason for withdrawing from our formerly expressed opinion that it is a sham. The very fact of the value being inscribed in centimes, or cents, goes far in our opinion, to condemn this stamp, and the mere existence of a postmark, in no way justifies it, as the most dangerous forgeries nearly all bear plausible obliterations. It is true that on the copy before us, the figure 6 in the date, May 6, being larger than the word has the appearance of having been inserted for use on that day only, but the word "Mai" itself looks like a forgery, and further, that word looks suspiciously French. Had this stamp been genuine, we cannot doubt but that authentic intelligence respecting it would have been forthcoming during the three years which have elapsed since it was first noticed, and this alone is confirmed by the fact that reliable information has been given respecting the existence of such out-of-the-way places as Kashmir, the Doreau, Japan, the Fiji Islands, &c., within a short time after their appearance. —H.B.]

THE SALE OF STAMP FORGERIES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I am a collector of postage stamps, —not fiscal, telegraph, and commercial labels, none of which have charms for me; and still less do I care for essays and "facsimiles," which latter word is but another term for forgeries. My business often obliges me to visit the metropolis and many of our provincial towns; and being an ardent searcher after specimens for my album, you will not wonder, Sir, that the shop-windows where stamps are displayed have a special attraction for me. But how frequently have I been disgusted and disappointed by finding, instead of "Genuine Foreign Stamps" (as these sheets are invariably labelled), row after row of worthless forgeries.

I will charitably suppose that the vendors of this rubbish are ignorant of what they offer to the public, but ought they not to exercise some little discretion in becoming the agents for dealers of whose commercial standing they can have but little knowledge? and they would certainly benefit both themselves and stamp dealers by consenting to do business only for honest and respectable stamp firms.

I do not wish to imply that I do not meet with any genuine foreign stamps; far from it. In most of the large towns are to be found well-filled sheets of authentic specimens. My object in writing to you is to warn inexperienced collectors to be careful what they buy, and not to fancy they have always a bargain when they see a label marked at a low figure.

I am,

Yours truly,

Cheltenham.

ANTI-FORGERY.

NATAL STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In the April number of your valuable magazine for this year, is a letter headed "New Varieties," and signed W. E. C. W. E. C. states that in a friend's collection he saw a 1d. Natal with POSTAGE surcharged in "gothic type," instead of roman. Now, this stamp must be a forgery, as all the surcharged Natal stamps are in roman type.

There are six varieties of 1d. Natsals with POSTAGE surcharged in roman type, viz:—

1st. That with POSTAGE printed across the Queen's crown.

2nd. That with POSTAGE printed on both sides of the stamp.

3rd. That with POSTAGE printed across the bottom of the profile in thin long capitals.

4th. The same as the above, but the letters in thick short capitals.

5th. That with POSTAGE printed across the bottom of the profile. The P of the postage is a capital, the other letters small.

6th. The same as No. 5, but the letters larger, rounder, and thicker.

Before the above came into use, a yellow stamp with embossed crown and inscriptions (NATAL ONE PENNY) in frame, rect. oblong, perforated, was in use for a few days, and has since been used only as a receipt stamp.

Of Natal receipt stamps besides the above, there are three varieties, viz., 1d. yellow, 6d. pink, 1/- greyish lilac, which are the same as the 1860-7 postage-stamp series, except in colour.

Dr. Gray, in his catalogue, notices a 1d. dark red and 3d. deep blue, *unperforated*, of the 1860 series of Natal stamps. I have never heard of, or seen either of these stamps; but have many like the above *perforated*, and I think Dr. Gray must be mistaken.

There are at present two varieties of surcharged 3d. Natsals, viz:—1st. That with POSTAGE printed across the bottom of profile in thick short capitals.—2nd. That with POSTAGE printed across the crown, the P of the postage a capital, the other letters small.

By inserting this letter in the next number of your valuable magazine you will oblige.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP F. PAYN.

Pine Town, Natal, South Africa.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. L., Banbury.—Your two-cent blue Hong Kong is most probably either a forgery or chemically changed from the normal colour.

W. H. D., Great Grimsby.—1. The light blue 1 real Spanish, of 1854, has long been known, and is looked on as an essay.—2. The 08 cent. Uruguay, lake, must be an *error d'impression*, if it be not a changeling.—3. The 30 c., French empire, with ground of horizontal lines, was noticed last year.

P. C. H., Derby.—The 1848 Republic stamps were not perforated, the 1870 Parisian are; but those issued at Bordeaux in 1870 are not. These latter, are, however, easily distinguishable from the others, as they are lithographed, and are very coarse. If Dr. Gray's catalogue and Lallier's albums do not mention the Alsace and Lorraine stamps, it is no doubt because they were published before the war broke out.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES
LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

V.

IN writing these papers, I have had many difficulties to contend with; the chief of these being the scarcity of all genuine locals, except those of the commonest kinds; and even when I have obtained the stamp of any particular post, I cannot make sure that it does not exist in some other colour, or that there may not be variations in the die. If I were able to examine these rare locals in bulk, completeness might be at once attained; but, as it is, a solitary specimen is often all I have to judge from.

Previously to describing the stamps of any one of these private offices, I make careful inquiry of my home and American correspondents respecting them. It generally happens that the opinions of the latter disagree upon some points, so that it requires much care to sift the various conflicting statements. For example, I will instance the labels of Boyd. Before publishing my list, I sent proofs to two leading amateurs in the States, both of whom returned them with the assurance that the order in which I had placed my types was correct. It now seems that I am wrong in one or two cases; but I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have never chronicled a counterfeit as a genuine impression, and have always endeavoured to expose impostors.

I have great pleasure in stating that I have secured a most valuable collaborator, in the person of Joseph J. Casey, Esq., of New York, who has for some time past given to the subject of locals considerable study, labour, and money; the latter a very important item in this branch of philately. From next month, the proofs of all my papers upon this topic will be laid before that gentleman; and I can promise some highly interesting particulars concerning the stamps of the East River post-office, in addition to numerous other curious facts not hitherto chronicled.

As I am continually receiving queries as to the genuineness of one or other of the numerous "bogus" locals, I think that a list

of those known to me will be useful to my readers. All the following are purely imaginary labels of imaginary companies. There are doubtless others, but these are the common kinds sold in most packets.

FICTITIOUS LOCALS.

Arthur's City Express, 2 cents, square.
Baldwin's Railroad Postage, twopence (locomotive), large oblong.
Barker's City Post, Paid (beehive), square.
Barr's Penny Despatch, oblong.
Bowery C. C. Post Office, 2 c., oblong.
Brigg's Paid Despatch, small oblong.
Central Post-office, one cent, circular.
Clinton's Penny Post, Philadelphia, oblong.
Donaldson's Paid Despatch, oblong.
Down's One-cent Dispatch (dove), rect.
Express Post, one cent (head in oval), rect.
Florida Express (mounted courier), rect.
Hackett's City Post, 2 cents, oblong.
Hunt's 1 c. Despatch, square.
Ker's City Post, various (said to be Canadian).
Lathrop's Albany Bank Express, 57, State St., oblong.
Lebeau City Post Paid, 5 cents, oblong.
Letter Despatch, J. M. Chute (ship), oblong.
Mills (G. A.) Free Despatch Post, oblong.
Moody's Penny Dispatch, Chicago, oblong, two sizes.
Moody's Penny Post, Chicago, oblong.
Smith's Mountain Express, Paid, five cents, diamond.
3rd Avenue S. R. Post-office, small oblong.
Union Despatch (horse's head), square.
United States Letter Express, 20 c. (head of Washington), large rect.
Utica Express, 30 cents, large square.
Walker's Penny Post (winged dart), oblong.

In most collections are to be found large embossed designs, which are supposed to have been issued for the prepayment of letters sent by the express named upon them. The commonest of these are the various devices adopted by Adams' Express Company for their different offices; such as a spread eagle, for New York; Pegasus, for Philadelphia, and their monogram—ÆC—for Boston. Another unintentional impostor is the oval with horse's head; which is given in nearly every catalogue as an envelope stamp of the New Jersey Express Co., whose name is thereon. All these are simply struck as advertisements upon the business envelopes of the respective companies. The same may be said of the large printed impression of the Merchant's Union Express, having for device clasped hands within a circle.

WHITTELSEY'S EXPRESS.

An American correspondent, who is an

authority on locals, informs me that this stamp exists in blue, as well as in brick-red.

CUMMING'S CITY POST.

Since writing my last paper, I have seen a copy of this wretchedly-drawn label in black upon yellow, and have heard that it is also found on green. Not having seen the latter colour, I give it with reserve.

ESSEX EXPRESS POST.

The history of this post is amusingly given in an early number of *The Mercury*. We are there told that it was established, in or about 1856, by three ex-carriers of New York expresses. These young men had sundry tin boxes placed in various portions of the city; and as their chief office was in Essex Street, the name of their business was probably derived from that fact. A stamp was issued of the following design. Sailing vessel in single-lined oval; ESSEX EXPRESS at sides, LETTER above, 2 CTS. below. I have been unable as yet to see a copy, but the colour is said to have been black on orange-red. After remaining in business for less than a month, we are informed that the proprietors retired upon the profits accruing from the sale of their stamps. In 1862, a certain dealer getting scent of some of these labels, proceeded to a grocer, who formerly kept a box for the concern, and from him obtained about two-hundred-and-fifty copies. Having a fine sense of first-class humour, the new owner of these locals detached one from a sheet, and after adding a streamer to the mizzen-mast of the ship and s. x. beneath, sent this altered specimen to a brother dealer. Strange to say, the recipient of the doctored label was in a few days able to advertise that he had for sale a fine stock of "undoubtedly genuine" Essex Letter Express stamps, all of which bore s. x. below the vessel. As these shams are so plainly branded with the mark of their worthlessness, nothing more need be said concerning them. What became of those two-hundred-and-fifty originals is to me a mystery, for genuine specimens seem to be as scarce as they were before this grand find. Everyone knows of the common forgery, which is condemned by its many-hued companions, and

by having a small pennant at the mast-head,

JEFFERSON MARKET POST OFFICE.

This is an office respecting which I have not been able to glean any information; but it undoubtedly existed many years since. The stamp used was an oblong oval, surrounded by the inscription JEFFERSON MARKET POST OFFICE, BY C. SCHMIDT & CO. In the centre was an eagle perched upon a rock. It is said to have been printed both in black upon red, and in blue. Copies are extremely

scarce.

BLOOD'S PHILADELPHIA DESPATCH.

This post was started about 1843, but I cannot vouch for the exact date; it issued several labels, most of which are well known, either in their original state or as counterfeits.

I cannot say in what order the eleven different types were issued, but suppose my American critics will tell me, now that I ask for the information. According to the late Mr. James Leslie, the stamp with giant-striding courier was the earliest, so I will take the three dies of this design first.

I.—Man stepping over the merchants' exchange of Philadelphia, having under his left arm a packet inscribed PAID; and over

his right shoulder a sack lettered CITY DISPATCH POST. Large square.

II.—Same design, with the addition of D. O. BLOOD & CO.'s in arch above the postman.

III.—Similar to the last, but with POST omitted from the bag, and CITY DISPATCH added in another curve (but of thinner type) across the centre of the stamp. All three dies printed in black on white.

Genuine.—At the base between the border lines is LITH. OF WAGNER & MCGUIGAN, 100, CHESTNUT STREET, and at right-hand corner, J. SMITH; all of which can easily be read by the aid of a microscope. On the left-hand building the word LITHOGRAPH can be plainly discerned.

Forgeries.—I know of three counterfeits of

each type, two from wood-cuts, and one produced by lithography. In the earliest of the former the makers' names are not given, and in the second they are quite undistinguishable. The lithograph is a very deceptive imitation, and has doubtless taken in many a collector. It is, however, at once condemned by the lettering at foot, which is too illegible, and cannot be read by any means. Genuine copies of all three dies are of great rarity.

IV.—BLOOD'S *Penny Post*, PHILAD'A, in double linear frame. Small oblong.

a. Blue imp. on ground of fine pink dashes; lavender paper.

b. Gold on plain blue, and bronze on black.

Genuine.—The stroke under POST is very short, extending only the width of s. The execution of the stamp is tolerably good. This is the label that was obliterated by a style dipped in acid.

Forgeries.—These are always bad, and have a curve under POST reaching from o to s. In the imitations of a., the pink surcharging is composed of smudged diamond-shaped dots.

V.—BLOOD'S *Paid* DESPATCH in frame of two lines; very small oblong. Bronze on black. I have not seen a counterfeit of this type, but the following features of the original may be useful in advance. Of the two strokes over PAID, the first extends horizontally with LO of BLOOD'S; the second is more arched, and is a little wider than the D above it. The curve below reaches to above the T of DESPATCH; and after which word is a minute period. It is rare as a genuine stamp.

VI.—BLOOD'S *One Cent* DISPATCH within double linear frame; very small oblong. Bronze on black.

Genuine.—The stroke above CENT extends over the two middle letters, and the dash below value commences beneath the second stroke of N in ONE, and finishes under the first portion of the E in the following word. There is a period after DISPATCH.

Forgeries.—I know of two, and there are probably more; one is carefully copied, but presents the following differences. The stroke over CENT comes just below the D of BLOOD'S, and extends from above the c to between

the E and N of the first-named word, the last letter of which is close to the border. The dash under the value reaches from beneath the centre of N to the following c. After DESPATCH there is no full stop.

The other counterfeit is printed in various fancy shades, and is of coarse appearance. It will be enough to say that the lower dash extends from the N in ONE to the same letter in its companion word.

VII.—BLOOD'S *Post Office* DESPATCH within a frame of two lines; very small oblong, bronze on black.

This stamp is rather a difficult one to forge, through the fineness of the German text in the centre. In the genuine, the dash under POST-OFFICE extends to I; whereas, in the only imitation known to me, the dash does not reach farther than the second F.

VIII.—BLOOD'S DESPATCH *for the* POST OFFICE. The following is Mr. Scott's description of this stamp, after stating that the above inscription is in scrolls:—"Printed in black, on a ground of pale blue. The word BLOOD'S in script capitals is shown on the tinted ground under the black inscription; oblong, black on blue groundwork, white paper. It was used in Philadelphia [were Blood's stamps ever used anywhere else?] in 1848, and is now very scarce, which fact, we presume, is the reason it has never been counterfeited."

IX.—I have now to chronicle one of the most elegant and chastely engraved of American locals. It bears a full-face portrait of Henry Clay, upon a sinuous engine-turned disc, within a solid oval, inscribed BLOOD'S PENNY POST above, KOCHERSPERGER & CO., PHILADA. below. Black impression on white paper. There is no forgery of this type, but proofs exist in several colours.

X.—BLOOD'S DESPATCH within a double linear oval; in the centre, a dove with extended wings, holding in its beak a letter, inscribed PAID. Oval; black impression on green, and on white. The remainders of these stamps must have been large, as copies are easily obtainable. There is a poor forgery, in which the dove is very badly drawn, with the envelope plain, instead of having its due share of shading.

(To be continued.)

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Bergedorf.

THE paper on the stamps of this town which appeared in September contained a misstatement which I hasten to apologise for and correct. It is therein said that the first two stamps issued have never been reprinted, but, as I have since learnt, and as I ought to have surmised when writing, from the fact that the original lithographic stone has been discovered, they *have* been. Another, though an evidently clerical error, was the reference to the common $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, as being printed in black on *violet*, instead of black on *indigo*. These points settled, we will proceed to examine the stamps of the city next in alphabetical order, viz. :—

Bremen.

The emissions of this town, if not distinguished by any remarkable excellence of design, present at least a pleasing *ensemble* to the eye. The principal device which ornaments them is emblematic of the sovereignty which belonged to the once free city. The Bremen burghesses kept the key of their own door, instead of giving it into the custody of some neighbouring potentate, and knew how to maintain their independence long after other equally important towns had succumbed.

Its series of stamps does not possess any very remarkable history: had the stamps voices, they might answer inquisitive querists in the words of Canning's celebrated knife-grinder story, "Heaven bless you, sir, we've none to tell." Yet, uneventful as was their existence, there are still some few items in it which require mention.

Thus, in the first place, we have the dates of emission. Moens unhesitatingly gives 1855 for the 3, 5, and 7 grote, and 5 sgr., but Berger-Levrault gives 1860 for the 7 grote. For the 10 grote, 1861 is generally ascribed, and we all know that the 2 grote made its appearance in April, 1863.

These stamps are divisible into two

categories: 1, those which served for letters posted and delivered in the town or district; 2, those used for external correspondence. The 2 and 3 grote, in conjunction with the envelope, represent the former, and the remaining values the latter.

The 2 and 3 gr. are inscribed STADT POST AMT (state, or city, post office); the 5 and 7 gr. bear the words FRANCO MARKE, without the name, and the two higher values bear the name only; the inscription would, therefore, seem to have been left in all but the two local post stamps to the discretion of the engraver. In like manner the crown surmounting the key, present in the 3, 5, and 7 grote, is absent from the others, and probably from a similar reason the 5 and 7 gr. were issued pursuant to the rules of the German postal union, as we find that in value they nearly approach the 2 and 3 sgr., and are printed in the colours originally chosen for these denominations.

The original series, composed of the 3, 5, 7 grote and 5 sgr. appeared unperforated. In 1861, however, a new value, the 10 gr., was added, and it made its *début* perforated, or rather pricked; in the 1862 the 5 gr. followed suit, and in 1863 came the 2 gr. The 3 gr., and the 5 sgr., pricked, were issued in 1864, and in 1866 the emission of properly perforated stamps commenced with the 3 gr., the other values submitting to the change in 1867.

It is worthy of note that of the 3 grote stamp there were three separately engraved types side by side throughout the sheet, and of the 5 gr. there were two dies similarly placed.

Imperforate copies of the 5 sgr. are found upon a thick, intensely white paper, in addition to that ordinarily used.

After the suppression of the Bremen post-office, a large number of its stamps were sold under cost price; and may, for aught I know, be still selling. I have no reason to suppose them to be reprints. They were

probably remainders; and comprised among their number, the unperforated 5 grote and 5 sgr., the pricked 10 sgr., and perforated 2, 3, 7, 10, gr., and 5 sgr.

Prior to their appearance, Bremen stamps—even used—commanded a relatively good price, being far less common than the emissions of many other of the German States; and numerous forgeries were the result, which must have yielded a rich harvest to their owners.

ENVELOPE.

The handstamped envelope served for local postage, and it was formed of white or of blue paper. The stamp, a simple transverse oval, contained the key and crown upon a shield; and on the edge of the envelope, in a line with this device, is the word *FRANCO*; the whole in black. Some specimens are found without the word *FRANCO*, but their authenticity is somewhat doubtful. The value, unexpressed upon the stamp, was one grote. As there is a most dangerous counterfeit about, collectors need to exercise caution before purchasing any of these envelopes.

OFFICIAL STAMP.

This stamp, printed in black on blue or pink paper, with scalloped edges, may be a



postal. It certainly bears the inscription, *BREMEN POST OFFICE*, but a correspondent, writing to this magazine, stated he always found it attached to bills of exchange, and its employment for postal purposes

has never been proved.

It may also be as well to mention here a stamp which has misled scores of inexperienced collectors. It is a small upright rectangle; and above the figure 1 in the centre is the inscription *UMSATZSTEUER*. In the middle of the figure, from which a number of rays diverge, is a small circle containing a key. This stamp is a fiscal one, and ought not to find place with the postals in a philatelist's album.

TWO EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST NUMBER OF *LE TIMBROPHILE*.

THERE reached us in August last, a number of the above journal, dated 30th July, 1870, which, at a cursory glance, we thought we had seen before; and we therefore put it aside, considering it merely as a method adopted by its proprietor, Monsieur Mahé, of notifying his return to business. On a second examination, however, we found we were mistaken; and that the number, though bearing an old date, had only just been published. A notice to subscribers, inserted on the last page, informs them that the number was in type when its editor was called away from his desk, to perform his duty as a National Guard; and that subsequent events had delayed its publication for a whole year. Mons. Mahé, the writer of the notice, adds that it is his intention to resume the publication of his journal; and we shall await with interest the appearance of the promised numbers. Meanwhile, the ante-dated impression must be made to yield its fruit for the benefit of English philatelists; and we feel sure Monsieur Mahé will not object to the translating of the two useful and interesting articles which we here reproduce.

I.—ON THE STAMPS OF NEW GRANADA.

Paris, 20th July, 1870.

Monsieur Pierre Mahé,

In your last number you call the attention of collectors to the new Granadine 5 and 10 pesos, and the 25 c. *sobre porte*, all three with a little round hole punched out of the centre, and the present 25 c., obliterated with a cross stamped with printing ink.* These stamps differing in the details of the design from those previously known, doubts were raised as to their authenticity.

In one of the last year's numbers of your journal, you advocate an inquiry into the history of all doubtful stamps, in order to discover who first puts them on sale, and where they come from; as I will not have any doubts raised respecting me, I desire to aid you in any investigation you may think fit to make in this matter. It is I who put these stamps on sale. I received them directly and officially from the Bogota administration as authentic; in proof of which they had been cancelled. If they were bad, why take away their facial value? How can we suppose that a postal administration would lower itself to fabricate stamps to execute an order, whilst all the time it possesses, and has but to cancel, the same kind of stamps? Under such circumstances, what interest would it have to act in this way? None; and that is easily understood; the best reason for me is, that a post-

* [We said, cancelled with a cross in black ink, drawn with a ruler.—Ed. *Le Timbrophile*.]

office would not itself make false stamps, since, with a little good-will, one could make use of them in the country. On the other hand, it is evident that they are not like those which were previously received here, but what is there to prove that they do not come from there? The matter touches me too nearly for me not to exculpate myself from all participation in the doubts of collectors. I have written to Bogota for explanations, and I hope soon to receive a reply which will dispel all doubts. As for me, I affirm that I received them from Bogota. Your investigation will now be easy.

Yours obediently,

CHARLES ROUSSIN.

We never for a single moment doubted M. Roussin's integrity, nor his straightforwardness in all his commercial dealings; therefore we did not put it in question. We simply referred to the stamps above mentioned, without pretending to make it a personal affair.

M. Roussin, having himself commenced an inquiry at Bogota, we await the result; but before that, we desire to express our opinion on these stamps.

All are cancelled, either by a perforation, or by a black ink line; and all come, we do not doubt, from the Bogota post-office. Now, if that post-office consented to send cancelled stamps to Europe, it must have had an appreciable interest in so doing; that is to say, the order must have amounted to a considerable figure. This much being established, it does not seem to us impossible that the Administration,—selling the cancelled stamps at a reduced price for an important amount, but not comprehending on the one hand the value which might be attached to the genuineness of a postage stamp destined simply to be mounted in a collector's album, and, on the other hand, not wishing to compromise itself morally by selling at a reduction stamps perhaps not yet obsolete,—may have had lithographed (the amount of the order authorising the outlay) special types at a very trifling cost, to meet the demand.

We believe we are in the right; and what confirms us is, that of these four kinds of stamps, obtained under special conditions as to the price, there is not one that does not essentially differ from those previously known; not only in the inscription (that is a common characteristic of the New Granada stamps) but in every detail of design—a thing never before known. It does not

appear to us possible that these four kinds should, by a unique chance, be found of several, or, to speak more accurately, of two types. However, we shall await the particulars requested from Bogota.

II.—THE CARNIVAL STAMPS.

The two designs of which we annex the fac-similes have furnished M. Moens with

matter for a premature, incomplete, and inexact article. We have reason in saying that he should have waited, as we have to do sometimes, in order not to fall into the error contained in an incomplete notice, or a defective translation.

We have received from one of our subscribers at Genoa, the subjoined article, written from notes furnished by M. Ravano himself.

Genoa, 1st July, 1870.

To the Editor of *Le Timbrephile*.

Every important town in Italy during the Carnival, has its characteristic mask or person.

At Milan	Il Meneghino.
" Bologna	Il dottore Balanzone.
" Turin	Il Gianduja.
" Venice	L'Arlecchino.
" Padua	Il Brighella.
" Genoa	Il Signor Regina.

The managing committee of the spectacles in our town, with a benevolent object in view, had the happy idea of issuing, during the Carnival of 1870, a couple of stamps, of which the object was, if I may so express myself, to establish the right to *free circulation* of masked individuals; their possession evidencing the conventional tax paid by pleasure for the profit of the unfortunate. I enclose you a specimen of each of these two stamps.

They both represent the chief of the Genoese masquerade, M. Ravano,* citizen of the town of Genoa, who managed the carnival fêtes in the costume of the *Marguis Regina*.

The two stamps served, as we have said, to *prepay* the maskers, on their entry into the theatres and ball-rooms; and the proceeds have been applied to the Infant Asylum. All who were completely masked and disguised were required to have a 50 centime stamp stuck on the mask.

* M. Ravano is a man of letters, to whom the public is indebted for, among other works, a treatise, highly esteemed, on the Practice of Gymnastics among the Ancients.

and on the right-hand glove. Persons in demi-costume, or wearing only a false nose, were to be provided with a 20 centime stamp. Unstamped ladies were not to be invited to dance; and ladies properly labelled might refuse to dance with gentlemen not decorated with a 20 or 50 centime stamp, as the case might be.

Was not this one of the most ingenious combinations that could be formed for helping one's neighbour—this forced subscription, so willingly submitted to in a moment of gaiety? No one refused to meet it, and the sale was represented by thousands and thousands of stamps, forming a respectable sum.

The inscription on the stamp—*NEO REGINA*—has two significations.

1. These labels, attached to the face or the hand, might have been taken for a parody of the *Nœi* (patches), which our ladies had in former times the habit of placing on the face as an ornament, and which, in that case, took the name of *Regina*, to distinguish them from the old ones.

2. The Greek word *neo*, signifying a new thing, coupled with the Italian name *Regina*, would mean Regina's new invention.

Take it in one sense or the other, these two stamps are, in fact, only a Carnival whim, to which philatelists will accord but little value. Still, perhaps, they would do well not to reject them from their albums, where they would remind them of a philanthropic act, and a good idea born from philately.

One of your subscribers,

GIANNINA LECANDRI.

We have spoken of these stamps, because everything more or less distantly connected with timbrophily, by its historic or anecdotic side, seems worthy of being inserted in our journal; and further, in order to render impossible any false denomination of these stamps, which when first shown to us by Mons. C. R., of Neuilly, had already taken the name of *brigands' stamps*.

The two stamps come, as one may read above the exterior frame, from the lithographic establishment of C. d'Aste, at Genoa. They are, taken altogether, the copy of the current 20 and 40 c. Italian stamps, printed in colour on white, and unperforated.

20 cent.	blue.
50 "	rose.

The application of stamps to philanthropic purposes, we may say in conclusion, is not a new idea, for we saw numerous examples thereof during the secession war in the United States; the series of Sanitary Fair, Soldiers' Fair, Bazaar stamps, &c., being sold for the profit of the poor, or of wounded soldiers.

It is said to be the intention of the Spanish government shortly to introduce into Spain the post-card system.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

JAPAN.—In completion of the details already given respecting the emission for this country, we here insert the engraving of the fourth and lowest value—48 (or 50) *mons*, dark brown. From a letter published in our correspondence columns there can be no doubt that the *ichabu*, as the unit of currency, has been superseded by the dollar.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Pskoff*.—Our St. Petersburg correspondent, by whom the list of Russian locals which appeared in our July number was compiled, sends us a stamp issued on the 10th July last for the Pskoff circuit (in the government of the same name), of which the annexed illustration is a copy. It has a rather bizarre appearance, like all the lozenge-shaped stamps, but is pretty well engraved, and the colour, a bright violet, is pleasing. This is the second stamp issued in the Pskoff province, the first being for Toropetz, and of this no specimens have yet come over.

Besides the foregoing, the following stamps have been issued since the publication of our correspondent's list.

EKATERINOSLAW GOVERNMENT.

Mariopol circuit.—5 kop. black on white.

PERM GOVERNMENT.

Shadrin circuit.—5 kop. blue on white.

TAURIDA GOVERNMENT.

Melitopol circuit.—3 kop. blue.

The Melitopol stamp replaces one of the same value printed in red, and bearing as device the imperial mantle and arms with inscription in oval frame, that device having been objected to as making the stamp look too much like the government issue, it has been changed. Our correspondent had not seen any of the stamps he refers to, and therefore is unable to give any further details respecting them.

We are pleased to be able to give engravings of three other locals already described, namely:—

Egorieff.—Transverse lozenge-shaped; inscription in frame, **CIRCUIT OFFICE FOR THE PROVINCE OF EGORIEFF, in centre RURAL POSTAGE STAMP and the value; 3 kop. blue, and black.**

The two colours, though of the same value, show certain differences in the details of the design.

Skopin.—3 kop. blue.

Sapojok.—5 „ black.

These two stamps, together with the Egorieff labels, all belong to the Riasan



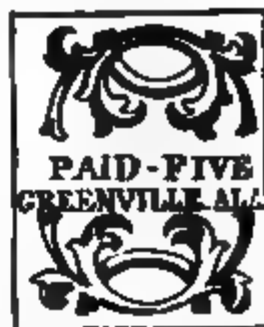
government, but the perfect independence of each other felt by the authorities of the respective "circuits" is shown in the dissimilarity of the designs. There is evidently no concerted action with regard to the issue of these local stamps; in fact, they exemplify in a special manner the working of the decentralising principle.

Bogorodsk.—The annexed engraving represents an envelope stamp for this post, which has just been discovered by one of M. Moens' correspondents, who, with the envelope, received information that no adhesive stamps had ever been issued! This shows how little way these latter have as yet made, for they certainly have

been issued and do exist. Specimens both of the blue and the vermilion have been seen on this side of Europe, and they are quite as authentic as the other locals. M. Moens, in noticing the envelope, omits one essential detail—its colour—but states that it is of large size, and of laid paper, and adds that the stamp is impressed on the flap.

UNITED STATES.—Here are representations of the newly-issued 15 cents and 90 cents envelopes for this country, which were described at length in our last number. We have before us copies of each value on white and on lemon paper, watermarked with the usual monogram. The 15 cents impressed on the coloured paper is more effective than on the white.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—The annexed design represents a rare and recently-discovered Confederate local, whose place of issue is indicated by its inscription. This stamp is of extreme rarity at present.



GERMAN EMPIRE.—The new stamps will appear for certain on new year's day next; they will have for design the imperial eagle, in white relief, in centre, and will be inscribed **DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST** and value. One of our correspondents informs us they will be used in every part of Germany, except Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and the values will be as follows:—

ADHESIVES.

$\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5 groschen.
1, 2, 3, 7, 18 kreuzer.

ENVELOPES.

1 groschen; 3 kreuzer.

WRAPPERS.

$\frac{1}{3}$ groschen; 1 kreuzer.

ST. THOMAS AND PORTO RICO.—The present illustration represents the handstamped impression referred to in our last number, and of which we had promised an engraving. Repeating the information then given (to save reference), we may mention that it is struck in black and was used in 1866.

RUSSIA.—We have information from St. Petersburg that postal cards are shortly to be issued, and are to be of two values,—3 kop. for town delivery and 5 kop. for cards from town to town throughout the empire. There is also to be a new adhesive imperial postage stamp, value 25 kop., for registered letters throughout Russia. These novelties will probably make their appearance with the New Year.

FRANCE.—A new "chiffre-taxe" stamp, value 25 centimes, has appeared. Design and colour remain unchanged, nor has even the improvement of perforation been introduced, the numeral alone is altered. This 25 centime stamp represents the postage claimable on local letters, but it is said that 40 and 60 centime labels will also be issued—the former for unpaid single letters from town to town, the second for double-weight letters, either local or general; and the errors arising out of the present confusion of colours in the ordinary stamps, may well render these *chiffres-taxe* indispensable. The department seems to have foreseen the difficulties which must result from the new 15 centime brown and 25 centime blue being in the same colours as the old values, if we may judge from the terms of the following decree:—

By decision of 26th August last, three new stamps were to be issued in execution of the law of the 24th of that month. These stamps will be of the values hereafter mentioned, viz.:—

15 centimes.

25 "

50 "

The colour bistre will be reserved for the 15 centime labels, and the colour blue for those at 25 centimes. For the stamps at 50 centimes the question of shade remains

undecided. There will then be simultaneously in service the old stamp of 10 centimes and the new ones at 15 centimes, each having the same bistre shade; it will be the same for the old 20 centime stamps and the new 25 centime, which will be blue. It will suffice to draw the attention of all the officials to this similarity of shade, to secure their most scrupulous verification of the rates covered by means of postage stamps. These officials should not neglect any opportunity to enlighten the public on the liberty which it possesses, to compose, with the stamps put at its disposal, all the charges to which its correspondence is subjected by the new law.

It appears, however, that in point of fact it *did not* suffice to call the officials' attention to the similarities of shade, in order to secure the payment in all cases of the full rates; or if it sufficed for that purpose, the public, at all events, refused to enlighten itself as to the facilities afforded by the new emissions, and it is now certain that there will shortly be an entirely new series of stamps for France. According to one French journal, the profile of Liberty is to be retained on the new series, as it has the advantage of rendering forgery nearly impossible; but there will be large numerals in the lower angles, as in the present low-value stamps. According to another journal, the figure of value is to occupy the centre; but this innovation would be too German to meet with approval. The new stamps, whatever may be their design, are being prepared with all possible speed, and it is said the post-office will not wait till the entire supply is ready to issue, but as soon as there is a certain quantity will immediately put it into circulation, and as far as possible withdraw the existing types.

As to the value of 50 centimes, which it is proposed in the above decree to represent by a stamp, we cannot help doubting whether such representation will take place; and, indeed, we are much surprised at its ever having been contemplated, for there is no *fifty-centime rate* in the new tariff. Double-weight letters, instead of paying 50 centimes, as might have been supposed, pay only 40 centimes, as before.

We noticed, in a recent impression, that we had seen French letters on which the half of a 10-centime stamp had been made to do duty, and been accepted as representing a five-centime stamp for the prepayment of the rate. On this subject the post office issued a notice that "certain journals having an-

nounced that the five centime postage-stamps might be replaced by those of ten centimes cut in half, the department warns the public that letters thus prepaid will be taxed, as the stamp ought always to be entire." Nevertheless the practice continues, for, since the appearance of this notice, we have seen several letters prepaid with a 20 c. stamp and the half of a ten centime stamp, and such letters have *not* been charged as insufficiently prepaid.

ENGLAND.—A pointed upright oval frame, inscribed KEBLE COLLEGE, OXON, and the college arms in the centre; the whole in plain relief, on a gummed and perforated rectangle of vermilion paper. Such is the description of a stamp which has just made its appearance at Oxford. It is issued and sold by the college authorities at the price of a halfpenny, and it frees letters from Keble College to the other colleges, or to the town. The letters are carried by the college messenger, and if a reply be desired, a second stamp is affixed; the obliteration consists of a pencil cross. How far the issue of this stamp will be considered by the post-office as trenching on its peculiar privileges remains to be seen; meanwhile, the emission deserves chronicling as a curiosity, unique of its kind.

BOLIVIA.—One of our correspondents favours us with the information that the 5, 10, and 100 centavos now have *eleven* stars; the 50 and 500 c. are still unaltered. Of the postal use of the 5 and 10 c. fiscals he says (and we quite agree with him) there can be no doubt; he has received a dozen post-marked copies. Our correspondent has received, from a friend of his, a Bolivian government official, a strip of eleven stamps or designs, somewhat similar to the impostor described at page 25 of our fifth volume. The following is his description of them:—

"Frame and inscription similar to the stamp figured at page 25, vol v., *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Within a circle, composed of a single line of dots, a conical hill, occupying nearly the whole circle. A smaller hill in foreground, to left of which a llama. On right slope of the larger hill, a tree. At summit, to left, the sun; below which the word PORTE; and on the side of hill the value— $\frac{1}{2}$ r., or 1 r., or 2 r., or 4 r., as the

case may be. The strip is cut vertically, and contains 11 stamps, in following order:

$\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4.

All the dies are cut separately, and very roughly. Badly printed; black on white; gummed."

We are inclined to believe these designs to be at least genuine essays, and if, as we have some faint idea, there has been a recent change of government in Bolivia, they may really be the forerunners of a new series. Cannot the gentleman by whom they were originally procured obtain further information respecting them, or say from whom he got them?

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The fashion of issuing stamps of high value seems to be spreading through our colonies, and may therefore be meeting, in stereotyped phrase, "a want long felt." The Cape has just followed it in emitting a five-shilling stamp of the same size and design as the other values, but of an orange colour. Some difference in size will probably be found desirable, in order better to distinguish this expensive label.

TURKEY.—According to our Brussels contemporary the 10 paras stone is not an unpaid letter stamp, but forms one of the regular postage-stamp series, and is used concurrently with the 10 p. mauve, which it will probably replace when the stock of the latter is exhausted.

HONG KONG.—The 30-cent stamp is now printed in mauve, in lieu of vermilion, a fact which seems to point to the retirement of the 18 cents.

LUXEMBURG.—The 10 centimes stamp of this duchy is now printed in mauve, instead of the lilac shade.

NEW GRANADA.—*Tolima*.—A 10 centavos stamp exists for this state, which we hope to describe next month.

FORGED STAMPS FROM HULL.

FOR a long time past the prevalence of forgeries has been the subject of frequent but unavailing regret in these pages. We have known that inexperienced collectors were being cheated in a wholesale manner, but it has not been in our power to expose the mode of action pursued by the sellers of

counterfeits. We are now, however, in possession of facts which cannot be gainsayed in respect of one member of the fraternity by which the sale of forged stamps is carried on, and we have no hesitation in making them public.

It is to the principal of a grammar school, himself a collector, to whom we owe this opportunity, he having handed us a sheet of forged stamps, and an accompanying letter received by one of his pupils. The letter is a printed one, and the following is a copy of it:—

29, Trinity Street, Hull.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a sheet of **Rare Foreign Postage Stamps** for your inspection, all at 1d. each (unless specially marked), less 4d. in the shilling commission.

Please oblige by selecting those you require, and forwarding me remittance for same, together with the remainder of the sheet, at your earliest convenience, when I shall have great pleasure in forwarding (if required) another assortment on inspection.

Your services as *Agent* will oblige,

Yours truly,

Net Price for the sheet, 5/. CHAS. C. DIXON.

The large lettering is as in the original.

The sheet of "**Rare Foreign Postage Stamps**" contains 98 labels, disposed in seven rows of fourteen, the squares being indicated by a single red line. At the top is an inscription, in block type, reading thus:—

Foreign Postage Stamps for Collectors.

All at 1d. each. No. ____

All the labels on the sheet are *counterfeit* representations, either of postage stamps, essays, or of locals, of which even the originals have a questionable character.

Now, as it may be reasonably assumed that a person professing to be a dealer in postage stamps knows how to distinguish between them and their imitations, it follows, on this assumption, that if he offers imitations for sale, he does so knowingly; and we believe that if the matter were brought before a law court, it would decide that knowingly to offer for sale imitations of postage stamps as being the genuine stamps themselves, is to endeavour to obtain money *under false pretences*. We recommend this consideration not only to Mr. Dixon, but to all who are engaged in the traffic in forged stamps—and their name is legion;—nor let

them imagine that they are protected by the omission from their sheets of any expressions *guaranteeing* the genuineness of the stamps they contain. They offer *foreign postage stamps*, and their labels are not foreign postage stamps; they are simply fraudulent imitations.

Mr. Dixon, the seller of the sheet of stamps we have now before us, edits, in conjunction with a Mr. Charles H. Calvert, of 63, Derringham Street, Hull, a magazine termed *The Stamp-Collector's Herald*. We refrain from commentary on its contents, lest it might be supposed we dread the competition of this new comer, but we are not bound to abstain from examining its advertisements, and among them we find one containing the announcement of a "**Yorkshire Stamp Union**," got up, as it afterwards appears, by the above-named editors. We have three tickets for this Union now in our possession, each of them ornamented by what is termed in the advertisement a "**rare Mexican stamp**," but which is really a vile forgery. Were these labels indeed what they profess to be, they would be worth a shilling each, or double the price of the ticket. So much, then, for the Yorkshire Stamp Union.

In another advertisement, Mr. Dixon's co-editor, Mr. Calvert, offers to supply for sixpence, 75 used and unused stamps, including, among other things, a Pacific Steam Navigation Co. and a St. Thomas Porto Rico (steamship in oval). The offer of P. S. N. Co. stamp needs no comment; as for the other, there never was a St. Thomas Porto Rico with ship in oval; what Mr. Calvert offers is, either the "**Clara Roth**" fabrication, or copies thereof, such as are to be found on Mr. Dixon's sheet.

These facts speak for themselves. If Messrs. Dixon and Calvert do not *know* the false from the true, then they are out of their place as stamp dealers. It is with them, however, to prove that they are unaware of the nature of the labels they offer. We, on our side, have it in our power to prove that those labels are false, and we hope that Messrs. Dixon and Calvert will desist from selling them, without an express statement that they are only imitations.

We will now only add, that we intend to

carry out the work here begun without fear or favour; we therefore will thank any of our readers who may receive stamps which they suspect to be forged, to send them to us, taking care not to remove them from the sheet on which they are mounted, and sending with them the letter whereby they were accompanied; we shall then take such steps as may be necessary in their interest, and in the interest of philatelists generally.

THE SURCHARGED GERMAN ENVELOPES.

By this title we wish to indicate the envelopes of five of the German states, which were re-issued by the North German Confederation after the war with Austria, with an adhesive Confederation stamp covering and replacing the original embossed design. These very peculiar metamorphosed varieties were referred to in these pages at the time of their appearance, but it has been left to the indefatigable Dr. Magnus to study and arrange them. The results of his investigations are given in the August number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, in the shape of a table, showing the original and present values of the surcharged envelopes, which we reproduce on the opposite page, and trust it will be found of service.

It may here be useful to remind our readers that the transformation of the value is effected in two operations: first, the embossed stamp is flattened out by impressing over it a design in a delicate grey tablet, as, for want of a better word, we have termed it, consisting of a wide rectangular Greek-patterned frame, with rounded corners, within which are 30 horizontal lines, composed of the words *NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK*, repeated twice on each line. Secondly, the new adhesive stamp is mounted over it, and the Greek border of the tablet forms a kind of background or relief to the stamp.

According to a German magazine, the *Briefmarken Sammler*, the 1 and 2 groschen adhesive stamps were apposed indifferently, and without regard to the value or colour of the original envelope impression, upon the 1, 2, and 3 gr. Prussian envelopes (eagle),

pursuant to an order of the 24th July, 1868. In like manner, pursuant to a decree of 29th October, put in force on the 21st November, 1868, a 3 kr. adhesive was placed on the 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9 kr. Prussian envelopes, used in those parts in which the currency is in florins; and, under the provision of a decree of the 5th October, 1868, a one-groschen stamp was to be put on all the different values of Saxon, Brunswick, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Oldenburg envelopes.

Thus, then, all the old envelopes of the North German states had their original values changed into one of the 3 following:—

- 1 silber groschen.
- 2 " "
- 3 kreuzer.

Dr. Magnus' valuable list is framed for the assistance of collectors of the "thorough" school, and is therefore as complete as it is possible to make it, embracing as it does all the varieties of shape and tint of paper. On examining it, we find there are 64 in all, of which Prussia owns 17, Oldenburg, 9; Mecklenburg-Strelitz, 6; Brunswick, 5; and Saxony, 27; but if, for the benefit of collectors who are unable or unwilling to take all the secondary varieties, we extract from the list the number of *values* which have been changed, we find that they number twenty-three, viz:—

Prussia, 6 pf., 1, 2, 3 s. gr. }	9
" 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 kr. }	
Oldenburg, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, gr. . . .	4
Mecklenburg-Strelitz, 1, 2, 3 s. gr.	3
Brunswick, 1, 2, s. gr.	2
Saxony, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 5, gr.	5

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Of the entire 64 varieties no less than 52 bear adhesive 1 *groschen* stamps, 7 have 2 gr., and 5 have 3 kr.; the two latter values must, therefore, soon become rare. Indeed, as Dr. Magnus observes, notwithstanding their number, or rather on account of it, the greater part of these stamped envelopes must soon disappear; and he advises collectors to complete their sets as soon as possible, advice which we cannot but confirm.

COUNTRY.	EMISSION.	SIZE.	PAPER.	ORIGINAL VALUE.	SURCHARGED STAMP.
PRUSSIA,	1st October, 1861 ..	Large ..	White ..	3 s. gr. ..	1 gros.
"	April, 1863 ..	" ..	Whitish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	Medium ..	White & whitish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	Slightly bluish..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	1st July, 1867 ..	" ..	" ..	6 pf. ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	9 kr. ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	Whitish & bluish ..	1 " ..	3 kr.
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	3 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	3 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	6 " ..	3 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	9 " ..	3 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	" ..	" ..
OLDENBURG	21st February, 1862 ..	Large ..	White ..	2 gr. ..	1 gros.
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	Medium ..	" ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	Bluish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	" ..	" ..
MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ ..	1st October, 1864 ..	Large ..	White ..	1 s. gr. ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	Medium ..	" ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
BRUNSWICK	October, 1865, Flap-stamp, a plait..	Large ..	Whitish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	Medium ..	" ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	Bluish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	Flap-stamp, a floret..	" ..	Whitish ..	1 " ..	1 "
SAXONY	1st July, 1863, Flap-stamp, a plait..	Large ..	White or whitish ..	1 neu. gr. ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	5 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	Medium ..	" ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	5 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	Slightly bluish..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	5 " ..	1 "
"	Flap-stamp, a floret..	Large ..	Whitish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	Medium ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	2 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	5 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	Bluish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	2 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	3 " ..	1 "
"	" ..	" ..	" ..	5 " ..	1 "
"	1st July, 1865, Flap-stamp, a plait..	" ..	Whitish ..	1 " ..	1 "
"	" .. a floret..	" ..	Bluish ..	1 " ..	1 "

A WORD WITH MR. ENGELHARDT FOHL.

WE have not very much to say to this gentleman, but we must not delay telling him—and at the same time our readers—what little has to be said with respect to his rather oblique ideas respecting honesty. In our September number appeared the following advertisement:—

ENGELHARDT FOHL, DEUTSCHE BRIEF-MARKENHANDLUNG, RIESA, SAXONY. For Sale, Italy 1851, 53, '54, set unused, 10/-; used, 3/6. Moldavia, 54, 81, 106, 80, 40, 5 paras, set 3/-. Mexico, 8 rls. violet, brown, green on brown, doz. 20/-. Spain 1861, '52, '53, the 2 reals 15/- each. Luzon, 1864 y '56, 10/-. Oldenburg 1/2 gr. 1852, doz. 7/6; 1860, 1/2 gr., doz. 6/-. Naples, 1861, Sicily, Modena Government Provisional, Parma Government Provisional, Romagna, Rome, unused, 1/3 set of each. Large stock of old Baden, Oldenburg, Hamburg, Bremen, Mecklenburg, Lubeck, &c., &c. All Stamps genuine. Terms, Cash. Small remittances in Postage Stamps. Correspondence desired. Colonial and Rare Stamps exchanged.

It will be noticed that in this announcement Mr. Fohl is careful to state that "all stamps" are "genuine," and yet among those he offers are some of the most dangerous forgeries ever brought on the market, notably the set of Moldavian stamps for 3/-, and the 8 rls. Mexican. As they are forgeries, we do not hesitate to denounce the original vendor to the public, and we trust that this present warning will suffice.

Mr. Bonasi, a respectable dealer, was deceived by the Moldavian counterfeits, and sent them to our publishers, by whom they were sold to a very experienced philatelist, who took them to be reprints. As soon, however, as Mr. Bonasi learnt that they were forgeries, he wrote our publishers, informing them of the fact, and requesting them to return the stamps, when he would reimburse them the amount paid. Mr. Bonasi's conduct is as praiseworthy as Mr. Fohl's way of acting is reprehensible, and we only wish all our dealers were like him.

Besides the above-mentioned stamps, Mr. Fohl has issued an unused 27 para Moldavia, for which he only asks *two pounds*. As the government stamps are all obliterated, collectors can be in no doubt as to what they are buying.

Since writing, we have been informed that Mr. Fohl has commissioned a house in Leipzig to fabricate these forgeries for him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HAITIAN STAMP.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, -The 25 c. Haitian stamp alluded to by "Warden" in your correspondence columns last month, may probably turn out genuine. For an explanation of *why* the value being in *centimes* does not militate against it, I refer your readers to Mr. Kitt's interesting letter in vol. vi., p. 174, of this magazine. I have all along considered it a genuine stamp, and am in possession of several curiously postmarked specimens.

Yours faithfully,
Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE JAPANESE STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, -The Japanese stamps described in *The Philatelist*, are authentic. The values are:—

- No. 1.—Indigo-blue 1 tenpow.
- No. 2.—Dull red 2 tempows.
- No. 3.—Yellow-green 5 tempows.

A hundred *tempows* are equal to one dollar, and they form the *new* Japanese currency; the *ichibu* is a thing of the past.

The above information is from a native of Japan—a government official—and is correct.

Yours truly,
San Francisco. C. W. L.

THE NATAL STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, -I have read Mr. Payn's letter on the Natal 1d. surcharges, and I beg to sit corrected for the blunder I made in saying "Gothic" type. The stamp I saw would come under Mr. Payn's fifth variety. I have, however, three varieties of the threepenny.

- No. 1. POSTAGE at bottom, in thick, short capitals.
- " 2. POSTAGE across the crown, P a capital; the rest small letters.
- " 3. POSTAGE in thin, long capitals, through the crown.

These all came from South Africa, and are postmarked, except No. 1 variety. I also got a shilling stamp on my last letter with *green* surcharge.

Yours faithfully,
Clifton, Yorks. W. E. COOPER.

THE MOUNTING OF STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, -I am about to move my stamps from their present repose in "Lallier," to a blank book or sheets; preferring the latter, if obtainable, with eyelet-holes. Perhaps you can tell me where they may be obtained or made, and at what cost. I read also about the "crotchet" system; can you tell me what would be its probable cost?

May I ask also, what is the special advantage of using cardboard mounts for stamps, to be fastened to the page by tissue paper? It seems to me, that if at any time it were desired to add a fresh stamp in the middle of an already mounted series, and so alter the arrangement, the page would be much less disfigured by the removal of (say) 5 horizontal hinges of tissue paper (supposing the stamps to be hinged directly to the page), than by the

removal of at least ten tissue paper slips, which would be necessary to mount *five* stamps by cardboard mounts, as described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for March, 1870.

I always mix a small quantity of glycerine with the gum I use for mounting stamps, as I find they are more easily removed from paper by a little water than stamps mounted with ordinary gum. I was recommended to do this by a gentleman who has his entire collection of *Foraminifera*, amounting to some thousands, so mounted.

Yours truly,

London, N. W.

P. H. C.

[In mounting stamps on cardboard, the preservation of the stamps themselves is considered, rather than the possible disfigurement of the page by a change in their position. Being thus mounted, they need never be touched, except for examination. To attach them, when mounted, to the page but one strip is needed; the removal of which only entails as much disfigurement as of a strip which holds a stamp. We think our correspondent had better write to M. Moens, Brussels, or M. Mahé, Paris for information as to the cost of an album on the crotchet system.—ED.]

BOYD'S EXPRESS STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—When I commenced a series of papers on the United States Locals, I plainly stated that those papers would take the simple form of notes, but it appears that no matter how distinctly a thing is asserted, some wonderfully wise critic will get up and proceed to dissect your remarks as if they were complete histories, and not mere memoranda. I am led to write the foregoing by the sight of the August number of *The American Journal of Philately*, and by the perusal of that intended crushing criticism therein contained, relative to my list of Boyd's Express stamps, published in your July issue. In the opening portion of the said criticism is a sentence that had much better have been left unwritten, for it is both egotistical and untruthful. "The usual blunders of English writers when they take up the United States' local subject." Forsooth! The writer who would pen such a statement must either possess a too exalted idea of philatelic knowledge among his brethren, or he must be ignorant of the theme upon which he preaches.

I suppose that among "English blunders" must be classed Mr. Pemberton's monograph on the *Locals of California*; yet it is very evident that either the bulk of these rare franks were unknown to our American cousins, previous to the appearance of Mr. Pemberton's article, or else that there was no collector in that country capable of putting anything together about them.

Probably it is the fear of excelling us poor British "blunderers," that causes the editors of the *American Journal* to publish so very few original articles in their paper, but when it costs over two hundred pounds to write a partial account of the Confederate postal system, we must not so much wonder at this. My notes are what they profess to be—NOTES, and nothing more. I give all the facts before me at the moment of writing, and cannot tell what may arise in the future. My leading object is to define the difference between dies, or between forged and genuine, so that my readers may judge of the value of any specimen that they may possess, for I would not impose upon inquirers after information, by giving them skeletons of descriptions, and then sit down and coolly call my anatomical performance, a "valuable article."

Having eased my mind upon the blunder question, I will return to Mr. Coster's criticism. I am quite willing to admit that Boyd's Express was established in 1844, for the existence of a stamped envelope so dated settles the point at once. The date 1846 was given some years since

by Mr. Leslie, and Mr. Scott confirmed it by giving that year as the natal one of the earliest stamp.

As an example of the valuable nature of Mr. Scott's local papers, I will instance my being obliged to ask for particulars of the large Boyd's label, through the utter vagueness of his notice of it. Mr. Coster now tells us that it is of similar design to the other adhesives, but with all the details, of course, larger. I may add on the authority of a New York correspondent, that it was used to cover the labels of Pomeroy, when letters bearing these stamps passed through Boyd's office for local delivery. Pray bear in mind, I do not vouch for this, but give the statement as it was made to me, and as a note merely.

The presumably second issue, according to Mr. Coster, was a 2 c. noted in *The American Journal* at page 19, of the present volume. I turn to this, and find the following valuably lucid paragraph:—"BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST, 2 CENTS. Eagle in oval on plain ground. Eagle's head very thin." Now this label, which I am blamed for not inserting in my list, seems to be of very doubtful authenticity, for, according to Mr. Scott's own words, the copy he had seen "was not on a letter." I shall not admit a die upon such evidence as this, neither will, I think, other European amateurs.

How is it, if Mr. Scott obtained all his dates and information from Mr. Coster in 1870, that Mr. Coster should, in 1871, deny the accuracy of most of those dates, and of a large portion of that information?

I never attempted to give the dates of issue of any of the types, but simply endeavoured to approximate the dates given in Mr. Scott's list to the various emissions described by me, taking the correctness of those dates for granted. It is, therefore, "coming it rather rough" on me, to say that I gave 1848 as the year in which my type I. a. first appeared. Mr. Coster says it should be 1845: very well, let us say it is so. I, for my part, accede to this date with childlike trustfulness.

The 2 c. gold on white of this die is comparatively common here, so, as my critic has not seen it, I derive the comforting fact that "they do not know everything down in Judee."

I am next accused of placing the dies named by me, b. and c., in their wrong order, thereby copying Mr. Coster, or, rather, Mr. Scott, who obtained his notes from Mr. Coster. I still think I am right, and for the substantial reason that I have an envelope franked by b., and dated 1852, and two covers franked with c., both marked 1853.

It stands to sense that if a plate was retouched, and a period added after CENTS, such plate upon being again touched up, would not be improved, have finer shading, more clearness, and no dot after value, which would be the case if Mr. Coster's opinion were the correct one. Again, the lettering in a. and b. is alike, whereas in c. it varies considerably from the other two.

That my type III. followed I. c., I am now bound to confess, having had ocular proof in the shape of covers, dated 1855. My mistake arose from reading an almost illegible 3 upon my solitary envelope bearing this die, for a 5. What does Mr. Coster mean by saying of this stamp, "I have never seen it on blue; perhaps it is a discoloration"? I certainly never mentioned, or even saw such a stamp; so do not know why Mr. Coster should so obligingly tell us of its non-existence.

It seems that my surmise as to the black on dull green, and red on white, of type V. is correct. These colours were issued before type IV., and the use of the die was reverted to after an interval, during which my types II. and IV. were used. This resuscitation of a badly-engraved die is somewhat inexplicable, but perhaps the

fourth type was worn away in supplying philatelists with the golden series.

According to Mr. Coster, the true dates and order of issue of the 2 c. labels are as follows:—

- I.—1844. large stamp black on green.
- II.—,, (probably) stamp with plain ground (colour not given).
- III.—1845. my type, I. a. black on green.
- IV.—1849. ,, I. c. ,, ,, gold on white.
- V.—1851. ,, I. b. black on green.
- VI.—1854. ,, III. ,, ,, ,,
- VII.—1856. ,, V. black on dull green.
- 1857. ,, ,, red on white. v.
- VIII.—,, ,, II. black on green.
- IX.—1860. (?) ,, IV. black on vermilion. [sic]
- 1060. (?) [sic] ,, gold on blue, green, and crimson.
- VII.—1865. (?) ,, V. black on red (many shades).

To this list I make the following objections:—The genuineness of the second stamp is not proved; there is, without doubt, a gold on white of my I. a., and the dates given to I. c. and b. are incorrect.

Mr. Coster says, "Mr. Atlee omits the variety of the second issue, reading one cents." This is not the case; for I thus wrote as a note on that die:—"The s of CENTS being imperfectly scratched out of the 2 cents, to make that die serve for the 1 c., a portion of the letter is visible upon all stamps of the lower value." I shall not believe in the existence of a specimen showing a well-defined s until I see one.

Mr. Coster defends the golden trio, as he has them postmarked upon the original envelopes. This proves my New York friend's information to be correct. Mr. Coster only clinches the opinion expressed in my first paper, that "these stamps were certainly sold to frank through Boyd's post." They would have had a place in my list, only, as I said then, and repeat now, "it is particularly desirable to omit altogether, when there is the *slightest* doubt."

Perhaps it may be interesting to Mr. Coster to have the history of these gilt labels, even from a "blundering Britisher." During the currency of the die termed by me the fourth, a certain New York impostor brought out some forgeries of that type in divers fancy colours, and in gold, and in silver. These abominations consisted of six values,—1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 cents; and had a considerable sale in this country (if not in America), to the great detriment of philately. To checkmate the concocter of this swindle, Mr. Boyd, Jun., who then owned the post, at once caused these golden stamps to be printed. They were sold under facial value, but would, it seems, frank any letter to which they were attached; the proprietor evidently arguing that very few of these labels would serve their legitimate use.

Mr. Coster adds to the envelopes:—

- Type II. a. On lemon, buff, and blue.
- ,, b. On lemon.

As these impressions were probably struck upon any kind of paper that came handy, the varieties of it are but of little value. I am blamed for not giving "the black-and-red impression noticed by Mr. S."; but what is meant by this description (!) I am at a loss to imagine.

If Mr. Scott's articles are to be of the slightest use, they must undergo a thorough course of reconstruction; for as they now stand they are almost valueless to those who have not seen the stamps the author alludes to—I cannot say describes. Here is a presumable rarity, which,

to the best of my belief, is unknown to English amateurs, mentioned by the following meagre notice:—

"(Envelope stamp). Eagle in oval, inscribed ROYD'S CITY DESPATCH 89 [sic] FULTON ST., 2 c. in each corner. Colored impression, red and black." What is this dualistically-hued impression? I am bound to ask, not being able to derive any information from Mr. Scott's "valuable articles on Our Local Stamps."

The remainder of Mr. Coster's remarks I need not notice, as he evidently did not heed that they were misprints that he was criticising.

In conclusion, may I point out that the knowledge of Americans concerning their own locals is the effect of quite recent study, for not more than three years since Mr. Scott said of the stamps under notice: "These stamps, being easily obtained in large quantities, have never tempted dishonest persons to counterfeit them." This statement, written at a period when no less than four distinct forgeries were being sold, may be taken as a gauge of United States philatelic knowledge at that time.

Our *confrères* across the Atlantic do not seem to have discovered a second die of the current envelope design until I "blundered" upon it in my notes.

It is rather hard that we should be obliged to publish doubtful information, so as to obtain the truth.

Yours faithfully,

W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. C. H., Aylsham.—Your stamp is one of the Austrian fiscal series.

NOTA B. NEE, Ipswich.—We have already received and published information respecting the new Swedish series.—The Japanese will no doubt become obtainable in the course of a few months.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe. Many thanks for your communication respecting the forthcoming German stamps. We shall be glad to receive specimens as soon as they make their appearance.

R. P., Queenstown.—Your question respecting the best mode of mounting envelopes comes at an opportune moment, as we are now having lithographed some diagrams exemplifying the method adopted by one of the best American collectors, and hope to give them in a future number.

P. H. C., London.—Your Montevidean impression is unquestionably a forgery, and a very clumsy one, in which the postmark is lithographed with, and is of the same colour as the stamp. From the paper, and from the general appearance, we should say it was a proof from the engraver's, lost *en route*. We insert remainder of your letter for the purpose of eliciting our readers' opinion.

J. C., Manchester.—This correspondent sends us a couple of the large English post cards first issued, which show certain marks not present on other specimens. Thus there is a dot in the centre of the letter P of "half-penny;" there are two extra dots in the leaf-like spandrel ornaments in the upper angles of the stamp; and there is a dot under the shaded leg of the lion, and another under that of the unicorn, in the arms; lastly, there are some half-dozen little dots between the lines of the Greek pattern in the lower margin. Are these dots intended as secret marks, do they hide defects, or were they put for mere pastime? We leave the answering of this question to our readers, but will only say that it is hardly likely these little dots form secret marks, for, if so, they would be found on every card.

ON THE THRESHOLD.

ON the threshold of a new year, and with it a new volume, we halt to give our readers kindly greeting, and thank them for their constant support. Gratitude, it has been wittily said, is a lively hope of favours to come, and ours, though hearty and unfeigned, still agrees, to some extent, with this definition. Whilst expressing ourselves truly sensible of past "aid and comfort," we also look forward to their future continuance; and our choice of the present number, rather than of the next one, for the publication of our thanks and expectations, has been influenced by the hope that many non-subscribing readers may be induced, by a timely appeal, to enter their names on our publishers' books for the coming year's issue.

We had also another object in view, and that was to encourage, at this opportune period, the many earnest students of philately—whose modest appreciation of their own merits has kept them from publishing the results of their investigations—to send us their contributions to the general stock of knowledge; they may rely on their manuscripts receiving full and courteous consideration; and we have already been too often indebted to occasional correspondents not to be persuaded that much of the information we might receive from philatelists, who have hitherto kept in the background, would be of considerable value, and well worthy of publication.

We intend to maintain this magazine in the position it has gained, and we look upon the acquisition of new contributors as a means to that end. Our readers may, in fact, rest satisfied that our heartiest efforts will be given to secure for them the best and most ample information on all subjects; and, as we do not owe implicit obedience to any "school," our columns will be open to the ventilation of all shades of opinion. In bustling language, we stand before our old friends a candidate for re-election as their representative and organ, and, confident that they will again return us at the head of the poll, we wish them A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

ESSAYS ON PHILATELIC SUBJECTS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

II.

UPON OFFICIAL STAMPS;—SHALL THEY
BE COLLECTED?

THERE are few things in philately more demonstrative of the lack of consistency among its votaries than the collecting of official stamps; for scarcely two amateurs are unanimous in their opinions upon this apparently rather perplexing subject.

It seems to me that this question has been raised to the rank of a Sphinxian riddle, when it is as easy to solve as that query of our childhood—"How many beans make five?" The whole thing lies in a nutshell, as I shall endeavour to prove.

If the collector wishes to confine himself to postage stamps proper, or (to put it more plainly) *those for public use*, then he will, of course, discard everything which has not been so emitted; but if he wishes to keep every stamp or mark showing that the letter was freed to pass through the post, then he must take the impressions used for that purpose. It must be patent to everyone that there can be no middle course.

I do not intend to advocate the universal collecting of official stamps, but I certainly think that a little more consistency should be shown in this matter than there is at present. How is it that every amateur accepts the returned-letter labels of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, when the English official impressions are left unnoticed? This is a question to which some logical reply ought to be given, but the production of a satisfactory answer is an undertaking which I defy anybody to accomplish.

The only argument that can be put forth is, that these German stamps are adhesive, whereas other officials are merely hand-stamped impressions. This is a reason so utterly absurd and childish, that it is not worth the trouble of refuting.

Dr. Magnus and all foreign collectors of note take official stamps, as do also many philatelists in this country. The great objection to these impressions is their generally mediocre, and oftentimes imperfect appearance; but as a demand would probably

bring a supply of many of them, I do not see why perfect copies should not be attainable with a little trouble. Moreover, the acceptance of the Indian "Service" and the punched-out Western Australian show that some at least of the official stamps are not discarded; and if some are taken, why are not all?

I have never made any great effort to obtain these franks myself, but having several which have not hitherto been described in any magazine, I think a short disquisition respecting them, and official stamps in general, will not be without interest, particularly to the numerous body which collects these things.

Franking was instituted in this kingdom during the Commonwealth; but it was not until some time after that any mark was impressed upon letters to show that they were to pass without payment. With these impressions it is not my intention to deal, as I desire to confine my remarks strictly to those franks adopted for the service of the state.

In our own country every department has its own envelopes, which are made in many sizes, and which have usually embossed seals appropriated to that particular office in which they are used. I need scarcely say that it is impossible ever to obtain all these envelopes; and as (with one exceptional class) they do not by themselves free their contents, it would be ridiculous to do so, even were it practicable.

The exceptions alluded to are the returned-letter envelopes, which are now generally despatched without having any mark struck upon them. All other official packets are, as it were, doubly franked; the first impression showing that they are forwarded by the authority of the person in charge of the department from whence they emanate, and the postal handstamp denoting that they are to be delivered free of charge.

According to my ideas, both these classes are equally worthy of retention.

In writing the following remarks, I am bound to state that I do not aim at completeness, but offer my notes for the benefit of any future amateur who may take this subject in hand.

I shall commence with the home franks, and then (to adopt Horace Greeley's favourite phrase) say "what I know about" the impressions used in our colonies.

It seems fit that the postal handstamps should occupy the front place, and in that order I will present them. I make a starting point of the year 1840, when private franking was abolished, and postage stamps made their *début*. It is impossible to take any account of the marks used before this time, as they are too numerous, and, when found, have but slight affinity with the subjects of the present paper, being only semi-official at best. It appears that our own franks are only used at London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. I shall therefore describe them under those headings. I do not profess to enumerate the dies in their due order, as two or more were evidently in use concurrently; neither do I profess to anything like completeness. I repeat this here in the plainest manner, to prevent anyone from wasting his energies in useless carping.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

LONDON.

All the post-office franks are struck in red:

- a. Within a circle of two concentric rings, PAID; and date in three lines, below which is a changeable letter.
- b. Single circle, broken above by a crown; inscription as in a.
- c. Same as last, but with smaller crown.
- d. A small circle, surrounded by inscription, OFFICIAL PAID, LONDON. Two changeable letters and date, in three lines, in centre.
- e. Same as d, but with E.C. added after LONDON.
- f. Same as d, but having W. after LONDON.
- g. A similar stamp to d, but lettered OFFICIAL PAID, CHANCING CROSS, W.C.
- h. Within an octagonal frame LONDON, OFFICIAL PAID, in three lines; below, in two more lines, the date and changeable figures. This impression was only used for a short time in 1868, and copies therefore are scarce.
- i. Large circle; LONDON, OFFICIAL and date surrounding the frame. PAID in large letters across the centre, above and below which are changeable letters.

FOR REGISTERED LETTERS.

- a. R. L. B. (Returned Letter Branch), REGISTERED, in two straight lines, with a stroke underneath. This was always struck in conjunction with the mark then in use for ordinary registered letters—a transverse oval, inscribed, REGISTERED, LONDON, E.C., with date and figure in the centre.
- b. A transverse oval, with the date in a straight line across the centre; above, REGISTERED; below, RETD. LT. BCH.

- c. (Used for money letters, sent to postmasters from receiver and accountant-general's office). Within a transverse oval, REGISTERED, R. & A. G. O., and date in centre.

EDINBURGH.

- a. Small circle, inscribed OFFICIAL PAID, EDINBURGH. Changeable figures and date, in three lines, occupy the centre. There are two varieties of this:—
 aa. Central lettering small.
 ab. " " large.
 b. Larger circle, with same inscription, and lettered as ab.

DUBLIN.

- a. Within a small circle, inscribed DUBLIN OFFICIAL PAID, changeable figures and date in three lines.

The marks impressed upon returned registered packets in Edinburgh and Dublin seem to be those usually struck upon ordinary registered letters. The returned-letter envelopes should, I certainly think, be retained in their entirety.

I will now proceed to the departmental franks of the postal and other government offices, at the same time acknowledging my list to be wanting in some varieties. With the exception of those used by the Admiralty, Board of Trade, South Kensington Museum, and International Exhibition, the impression always consists of a handstamped signature.

ADMIRALTY.

The earliest franks of this department that I have been able to find are those adopted about 1855, when the office at Somerset House was divided into two branches. Both the stamps were rounded oblongs divided by a horizontal bar across the centre, and had DEPT. OF ACCT. GENL. OF NAVY above. In the lower half we have the name and facsimile signature.

- a. PAY OF NAVY. *Thos. Collings*. Blue.
 b. CASH & ACCTS. *Jas. Beeby*. Red.

After some time these were discontinued, and the current ones came into use; of these I have the following:—

- c. An upright oval garter, inscribed ADMIRALTY, WHITE-HALL, and having in the centre an anchor. Blue.
 d. A circle, containing an anchor, surrounded by an inscribed outer circle. Blue; used at Somerset House.
 1.—COMPTROLLER OF VICTUALLING, ADMIRALTY.
 2.—COMPTROLLER OF THE NAVY, ADMIRALTY.
 e. Similar device to c. but lettered ADMIRALTY D. A. G. (Deputy Adjutant General), ROYAL MARINES. Blue.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Within an oblong oval garter, BOARD OF TRADE. In the centre the rose, shamrock, and thistle. Blue.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

Within a triple linear frame, with large crown above, SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM. Blue.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1871.

Previous to the opening of the Exhibition, the com-

missioners sent a circular to all the addresses in the *Court Directory*; upon each of these circulars was a large and handsome frank, printed in red. The design is of a medieval cast, and is somewhat elaborate, though severe.

On a plain oblong is ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS, in three lines; this is upon an oblong of vertical lines, within a frame, broken above by a large open crown. Following the frame is H. M. COMMISSIONERS FOR THE EXHIBITION OF MDCCCLI; all within a fancy chain-like pattern. The date 1851 seems to have been adopted because the Exhibition Commissioners' office was established in that year.

INDIA OFFICE.

A curious device has been adopted by this branch of the public service. It consists of INDIA OFFICE, in letters composed of dots, and slanting towards the right. This has the appearance of being struck over the signature—*J. C. Merivale*. Blue.

WAR OFFICE.

The stamp used is a transverse oval, with WAR OFFICE in lower half, and signature above.

- A. Barnes (?), in black (obsolete).
 E. Lugard, „ blue.

GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION BOARD.

I have now before me several envelopes bearing the frank stamp of this office, but they are all so badly smudged that it is impossible to decipher them. They consist of large transverse ovals, with EMIGRATION beneath, but what should be above I cannot say. In the centre is the signature, *S. Walcott*, with the date of the present year below. Struck in red.

The following, except when otherwise stated, are facsimile signatures, and in black:—

ENGLAND.

POST OFFICE.

- R. Hill (in type).
 J. Tilley
 W. Parkhurst.
 W. Bokenham.
 Geo. Chetwynd.
 Wm. J. Godby.
 John Warren.
 A. Millikin.
 A. C. Thompson.
 J. H. Newman.
 F. R. Jackson.
 Wm. Farmer.

INLAND REVENUE.

- Adam Young.
 T. Sargent.

CIVIL SERVICE COM.

- T. Walrond.

ECCLESIASTICAL COM.

- James J. Chalk.

EDUCATIONAL COM.

- R. R. W. Lingen, blue (not in facsimile).
 F. R. Sandford, black, blue.
 „ „ smaller.

PRIVY COUNCIL, VETERINARY DEPT.

- Alex. Williams (in type).

SCHOOLS COM.

- A. R. Fitzgerald, green.

Not being complete with the Edinburgh offices, I will let them stand over, and insert a list later on.

DUBLIN.

POST OFFICE.

G. C. Cornwall (printed).
J. Allen.
W. J. Thompson.
R. R. Guinness.
A. A. Buckhardt.
H. James.
R. Loverock.
W. Anderson (?).

PUBLIC WORKS.

E. Hornsby.

POOR LAW COM.

J. Mc Gloin.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

J. Kelly.
W. H. Newell, } Both upon one stamp.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

R. N. Matheson.

COM. CHURCH TEMPORALITIES.

A. E. Hamilton.

W. L. Bernard.

IRISH FISHERIES.

Alan Hornsby.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.

Henry Wilkie.

COM. OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

W. A. Soady (in type).

(To be continued.)

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The October number, besides a full and interesting chronicle of new emissions, contains an article entitled "Notes on the South American Stamps," and also the continuation of the essay on the German Envelopes, and a "Spud" paper. With the latter is given a remarkable forgery of the Sydney 2d. blue, respecting which we transcribe Mr. Atlee's remarks, for the benefit of old and young collectors alike.

In every genuine stamp with view of Sydney, the man standing in the landscape holds in his right hand a three-cornered hat; this is absent in the imitation, and the man's head is adorned with a charity-boy's "muffin" cap. Except when the plate is much worn, the half-date (17) upon the bale, can always be plainly deciphered with a magnifying-glass. In the counterfeit, the figures are replaced by shapeless strokes. Some of the originals are upon thin paper, but never upon the almost *pelure* of the forgery.

The forgery of the fourth plate is the one here shown. It can be detected through the corner stars, which are *always* badly shaped in the genuine; whereas, in the imitation, they are evenly drawn, as our readers will see for themselves. The idea of soaking these shams in coffee, for the purpose of giving them "age," is a brilliant one, and well worthy of their manufacturers. The improvement (?) has not been long adopted, the early one being in slate upon clean paper.

Mr. Atlee, in the course of his description of the Egyptian forgeries, gives, as a distinguishing feature of the five paras, that the Egyptian lettering reads 5 *piastres* instead of *paras*, whilst on the 5 *piastres*, the Egyptian inscription reads 5 *paras*. This is a first-class distinction, but to make it of use to those who neither possess the stamps, nor a sufficient knowledge of Turkish to enable them to detect at a glance the erroneous inscriptions on the forgeries, it would have been well to insert an engraving of the character used to denominate one or both of the values.

In reviewing a new American publication, the editor of *The Philatelist* makes the following observation, which we commend to the notice of American youngsters who contemplate rushing into print:—

Juveniles had much better devote their time to the study of English grammar, than set their elders' teeth on edge with their wretched remarks about "a thing which have," and their utter recklessness of punctuation.

After all, the Declaration of Independence contains no encouragement to our cousins across the water to throw off their allegiance to the common tongue.

In answer to a correspondent, the editor gives the following information respecting the small or "ladies'" size of the Transvaal envelope. He says—

It was never intended for postage. After the genuine on the larger envelopes became obsolete, the postmaster obligingly struck off some impressions on small envelopes, for the benefit of his friends. Those of the first type are from the original die; and as it is almost impossible to obtain genuine copies, one must take these, as we take reprinted Natsals. The smaller type is quite a fancy article, and only bears a family likeness to the genuine.

For our part, we must say, that, without in any degree questioning the authenticity of the larger envelopes—which, indeed, has been explicitly guaranteed by the Transvaal postmaster—we could never take the emission *au sérieux*. The supply struck off was too limited to meet a real want; and one of such liliputian proportions could hardly be other than the result of an official's pastime.

The November number contains comparatively little to notice. In the article on "Recent Emissions" occurs a description of a Japanese stamp, or "seal for fastening letters," which exists both perforated and unperforated; but nothing is said to show

that it has really any postal character, and we doubt its possession of any.

Incidentally noticing the field-post correspondence cards issued during the late war, the editor sensibly asks, "Who *can* take any interest in these miserable Germanic cards?" and we quite agree with him; but the inquiry conveys a reproach to those who would push collecting to extremes. Although these cards freed the correspondence they bore, and were officially issued, their monotonous ugliness militates against their collection; but, according to the faith which inculcates implicit acceptance of everything which has a postal character, they ought to be collected and valued equally with other and more attractive issues. One instinctively revolts, however, against the pressure of such an argument, which would tend to make his album a wilderness of German text, and refuses to accept a dictum, which, for the sake of logical sequence, would transform an unvarying pleasure into a repulsive task.

Le Timbrophile.—In our last, we gave two extracts from a recently published number of this journal, dated July, 1870. The sign of life thus given has been followed by the complete resuscitation of our old friend, two more numbers having since made their appearance. As might have been expected, M. Mahé's first care is to write off the arrears of news which have been accumulating during more than a twelvemonth; and accordingly we find the major portion of these two numbers occupied with a chronicle of new emissions which can only be novelties to French collectors. The remainder is taken up with an article, by Dr. Magnus, on the French postal service in 1870-1, wherein the various plans tried in the beleaguered capital to open communications with the departments, are interestingly detailed. Incidentally, the learned doctor analyses the reprint of the 1848 stamps; but although his observations are of their usual value, we prefer to postpone their reproduction until his promised review of *all* the French emissions appears.

A. Moschkau's Magazine.—We have not the advantage of knowing Mr. Moschkau, the proprietor of this journal, but the editor of *The Philatelist* answers for him, as being "a

very energetic amateur," and its fourth number, from which we have already quoted certain items of news, is evidently the work of a true and honest collector. Although it is but a four-page octavo, it is full of information, and that too of a certain importance. Mr. Moschkau was not only the first to announce the adopted type for the new German stamps, but was also the first to denounce the forged 27 para Moldavian, which has been making such a stir. Of this notorious imposition, he gives an analytic description, which we much regret our slight knowledge of German will not permit of our translating; and in another part of the number, under the expressive heading "Schwindel," he describes and warns collectors against the Brésiau myths. We sincerely wish our new contemporary the success he deserves.

The American Journal of Philately.—The September number is accompanied with a well-printed catalogue of stamps, which, we presume, were sold on the 9th of October. We note the most striking specialities:

- Lot 12.—Scarce uncatalogued San Francisco local, unused [why not have mentioned the name?].
- „ 52.—Canada, 6d. perforated.
- „ 60.—Charleston envelope stamp, in fine condition.
- „ 61.—5 c. red Knoxville, unused and perfectly clean.
- „ 69.—5 c. blue Lynchburgh, unused, but slightly rubbed. This is one of the scarcest known Confederate provisionals.
- „ 70.—5 c. red Petersburg.

The number itself contains a continuation of the three following articles: "A Short History of the United States Post-Office;" "History of the Confederate States Post-Office;" "A Collector's Notes on the Stamps of New Granada." From the second we give an extract in our article on "New Issues," and we notice in reading it that the number of southern postmasters has fallen from twenty thousand to ten thousand. The last of the three, which is exceptionally well written, contains some remarks as to the probable date of issue of the large New Granadine which deserve to be carefully read and studied. They are as follows:—

On the next page of our note-book we have collected some few items about the issue (large rectangle), with the legend "Estados Unidos de Nueva Granada," designated by the catalogues as the third in order, of the year 1861.

The charming and unusual uniformity in the lists of these authorities, in all the particulars of date, design, values, and colours, as though each had copied from the

other, the profound silence of the writers in the magazines, broken only by the articles of Mr. Pemberton on forgeries (*Philatelist*, vol. i., p. 131), and that of Dr. Magnus on reprints (*Timbrophile*, page 464, reprinted *S. C. Magazine*, vol. iii.), like a calm between storms, is a great relief from the discussion about the issues just described, and indicates clearly the fact of their great rarity, and the little known about them. This, combined with the peculiar character of the engraving, the great dissimilarity in their size and design, when compared with the issues usually said to precede and succeed them, led us some time ago to suspect that Bellars and Davie, though standing alone, gave the right date, and that this was the first issue in 1858, instead of the third in 1861. Not finding that any of the authorities gave any reason for so unanimously assigning 1861 as the date of issue, we have searched long and carefully to find the exact date when the title in the legend was in use, with the unsatisfactory result of learning only that in addition to the names and dates given in our former article, there was a change of some kind in the constitution and name in May, 1853; and to have our suspicion partially confirmed by the statement of several writers, that the Granadine Confederation was merged in the United States of Columbia, in 1861. In this connection, the remark of *The S. C. Magazine*, vol. v., p. 78, that an American contemporary states that the postmaster of Columbia declared the issues of 1860 and 1861 to be unauthorized emissions by "the rebels" is rather significant, and increases our anxiety to have the date and history of these emissions definitely settled.

The Stamp Journal.—This is an unpretending little magazine, published by Messrs. Henry P. Harker & Co., of Hull, who, it is but justice to them to say, are not connected with the various firms to whose trade in forgeries we have deemed it our duty to call our readers' attention. The journal is edited by a "Monsieur Auguste Jacob;" but, although the writing is of a very amateur character, there is nothing un-English about its composition. As to the evidences of long life and prosperity given by the new comer, perhaps the less said the better. From a list published in an American paper, it would appear that no less than thirty-two philatelic journals have been started in this country, of which only two survive; and of the thirty which have died from lack of proper support, the majority, to our own recollection, were publications of about the same size, and neither more nor less promising than the one under review. Under these circumstances, whilst wishing success to the new enterprise, we cannot, in honesty, show much enthusiasm over it.

Le Timbre-Poste contains absolutely nothing of a reproducible nature. It is occupied almost exclusively with an instalment of Dr. Magnus' article on envelope stamps.

NOTES ON THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA. I.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

It may appear "considerably impertinent" for me to pretend to write on any American subject, with the avowed intention of diffusing knowledge or information, in the face of Mr. Coster's remark about "the usual blunders of English writers when they take up the United States local subject"; but, as it is hopeless to expect that any of our better-informed brethren in the States will give us the benefit of what they do know on the subject, I, after considerable cogitation and some diffidence, venture to indite these papers, as showing accurately what I know about Californian locals.

I no more profess to a complete knowledge of American philatelic matters, than I do to having spent two hundred pounds in preparing these articles; but I do say that this sum would not cover what has been paid for the specimens from which these notes are made. This I simply state, that my readers may not run away with the idea that I am describing rubbish.

It is to me perfectly inexplicable that there are collectors in the States, who, with opportunities for obtaining information, which appear to us, who have to make our inquiries by letter, and chance the getting a vague reply in a couple of months, almost transcendental—it is to me, I say, inexplicable that so little has been written by those who are undoubtedly well informed. If we in England, groping about in the dark as to facts, venture to attempt to arrange and describe such specimens as we have acquired from the States by a persistent course of heavy payments,—and that without any assistance but what we may glean from a few papers in *The American Journal of Philately*, which are valuable in themselves, but too often faulty in their grammatical construction—if we venture on "Notes on the United States Locals," straightway some one, who is professedly well informed, writes in the American jour-

days, to be returned to

If not delivered within

Merchants' Exchange Building, Battery Street, opposite the Post Office.

Mr David. McKay
Davis St one door
South of Jackson
San Francisco

South corner of Cass Street
San Francisco



ANSWER BY
BAMBER & CO'S EXPRESS
OFFICE DAVIS ST
BETWEEN BROADWAY & VALLEJO.



San Francisco

TRUMAN & CHAPMAN'S EXPRESS.



S. F. & S. J. RAIL ROAD.



Mr. David McKay

427 Davis St

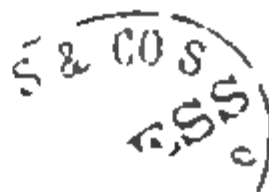
one door south of Jackson

*San Francisco
Cal*

Order

Mr David McKay
San Francisco

NICHOLS & CO.'S EXPRESS.



Mr David McKay Grocer
Davis St near Oregon

San Francisco

Col

7

Mr. Daniel M. McKay
Brick Store, Davis St
one door South of Jackson
San Francisco

D. McKay Esq
Davis St one door South of Jackson
San Francisco
Cal

nal, and, more out of jealousy than a desire to impart information, tells us just what we want to know. In hopes that my inconsiderable knowledge may produce criticisms as searching as the one on Boyd's Express (see *The American Journal of Philately*, for August, 1871, p. 97), I have extreme pleasure in writing the following sketches.

I am not prepared to gauge the amount of knowledge that Mr. Coster deems necessary to form what he would call a lamentable display of ignorance; but I wish our American friends to understand distinctly that I shall only describe from the actual specimens which I possess; that I profess no knowledge of the dates of issue, or routes, or existence of the companies, but what is derived from the entire envelopes and letters before me. I shall describe what I have, solely to elicit further information; not to be called to account for withholding information which I have no means of obtaining.

The causes which led to the establishment of a series of Express Mail Companies were briefly explained in my previous paper on these locals, published in September, 1869. California was ceded to the United States in 1848, gold was discovered shortly after, and in 1849 the influx of miners commenced; although the "rush," as it is popularly called, was made in 1849, it must not be supposed that many arrived early in that year, for it was a six months' voyage from Europe then; but as soon as the mining camps were in full operation, it became a necessity to have reliable means of conveyance to forward letters and gold dust. This led to the establishment of express companies, mostly located in the country, near the miners, who then sent their orders down to the town or settlement now called San Francisco, for provisions, or any other necessities of life. Most of these companies had but brief existence, the routes changing hands, and, as a rule, eventually passing under the control of Wells, Fargo, & Co., of whom we are told, that they will brook no opposition, and always buy up rival companies, if they can only hold out long enough to be bought up. These companies were rude concerns, for there was no regular post-office at first, and as the express offices had to take charge

of letters, they went through all sorts of dangers and difficulties, and charged accordingly.

The early settlers in San Francisco were nomadic,—here to-day, gone to-morrow; what letters they received were soon destroyed; they had no need to hoard them up,—why should they, where their stay would be brief? This I am careful to explain, that the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* may understand the well-nigh insuperable difficulties of getting the long-obsolete varieties.

When the history of a city does not extend beyond a period of twenty years, it can readily be understood that there are *no* old offices, and *no* old lumber-rooms, as in older cities, the natural receptacles for letters of a bygone generation. So with San Francisco: at the time of the finding of gold on the Sacramento river, it was little better than a sand-bank; but now it is the great trading city of the far west, and one which, from its position, must ever increase in wealth and splendid prosperity. It was early last year, that poor Craig went thither, and at once commenced a most rigorous search in every likely place for these interesting franks. Since his untimely death, the pursuit has been kept up by Mrs. Craig, and with very great success. From two particular offices I have obtained a few valuable handstamps used in 1851, and also a number of scarce printed franks on government envelopes; from these I have made a selection, which the publishers of this magazine have been enterprising enough to engrave in their entirety. It will be noticed that all bear one address—that of Mr. David McKay; and all earnest philatelists will join me in being for ever thankful that there was such a methodical man in San Francisco in those early days. For many fine and valuable specimens, I have to thank Mr. Lomler; and I have written to him, attempting to induce him to hunt up the past histories of these curious old expresses, which may be safely considered as the pioneers of civilisation in that far distant west.

As previously stated, the rush occurred in 1849, and in that year the "Pioneer Express," of California, was established by Todd & Bryan, of which I trust to give full par-

ticulars in due course. The earliest dated and franked letters which Mrs. Craig has been able to obtain are of 1851. They bear handstamped franks, are addressed to the same house in San Francisco, and are, briefly, the following:—

Palmer & Co.,	April, 1851.
Mumby & Co.,	May 12, 1851.
Gregory's Express,	July 28, "
"	Sep. 19, "
Todd's Express, Sonora,	May 29, "
Reynolds, Todd, & Co.,	Nov. 22, "
Todd & Co., Stockton,	Dec., 1852.

After the above we commence finding franks of Adams, Freeman, and Wells, Fargo & Co. After 1853 it would appear that printed franks came more into use, and the handstamp went out, save for obliterating purposes; whereas it appeared formerly to have all the powers of a frank, although the envelope frequently bore, in addition, the word PAID from another handstamp. Letters sent partly unpaid were marked NOT PAID, or else COLLECT; but still bore the handstamp frank, which leads us to infer that the letter must have been partially paid.

With these introductory remarks, I will, in my next paper, proceed to the actual description of the specimens.

(To be continued.)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—Slowly, one after the other, the Russian locals are finding their way across to this country. We have this month the pleasure of giving engravings of three, which answer in every point to the very accurate description of them given in our number for July last.

Taking them promiscuously, we come



first to the Tichvin, the least interesting, as it is also the most primitive, of the three. When we have said that it is coarsely printed in red, on thick white paper, heavily gummed, and that the value—2 kopecs—is not indicated, we have said all that can be

said about it, except that the town or district of Tichvin is in the Novgorod government.

In the same government is found the town of Kiriloff, to which the second and largest of the new arrivals belongs. The inscription in the centre reads, FOR ENVELOPES, 1 LOT, 2 KOP.; but we presume that the Russian word literally translated "envelopes," should be understood to mean letters or correspondence. The inscription in the circular frame signifies, KIRILOFF DISTRICT COURT. *Entre parenthèse*, the anomalous spider-like ornaments in the frame are intended probably for stars. This stamp is printed in black on reddish-brown paper.

The third stamp comes from Rjff, in the Tver country—a land apparently abounding in intractable consonants, and is at once the brightest and the most grotesque. The crown looks very odd, placed on the quadrupedal article of furniture which occupies the upper half of the rectangle, and the nominally "rampant" lion in the lower half would

utterly disgust a member of the college of heralds. The entire design is printed in black on white; but the portion occupied by the arms is surcharged with a red disk. The translation of the marginal inscription is RJEFF RURAL POST; the value is 2 kopecs.

The divergence of the values of the Russian locals, ranging, as they do, between two and ten kopecs, is worthy of passing remark; and may probably arise from the greater or lesser distances which separate the districts in which the stamps circulate from the nearest imperial post-office. There is also another noticeable point in connection with these stamps, namely, the appearance on several of them, of two or more armorial emblems, apparently distinct from each other, inasmuch as they are completely separated. This peculiarity is to be observed in the Rjff

2 kop. above represented, and leads to the inquiry whether the emblems in the upper half may not be those of the government, whilst those in the lower belong to the town.

NEW GRANADA.—A new stamp has just made its appearance, whose design shows a considerable departure from the long fashionable Grenadine type, and appears to be copied to some extent from that of the Montevidean series. As will be seen from the annexed en-

graving, an inscribed figure 2 occupies the centre of the stamp, the arms are ingeniously inserted in the curve of the figure, and heavily draped flags form a not ungraceful background. In minute letters in the

two upper corners are the words LIBERTAD and ORDEN, forming the motto of the Republic, and in the lower corners are small figures of value; the whole impressed in dark brown on white. Altogether, this stamp deserves a separate and higher rank from that occupied by the majority of its congeners.

TOLIMA.—We last month announced the emission of a new 10 centavos stamp for this country; we have since learnt of the existence of a 5 c., and are now happy to be able to give engravings of both.

The 5 c. is brown; the 10 c., a rich blue. It would appear that both have been recently issued, and form part and parcel of one and the same series; and yet not only the striking difference in design, but also in size, would seem to point to a contrary conclusion. There are now in existence the emissions of not less than four of the United States of Columbia; but no explanation has been given, nor speculation hazarded, as to the reason for their "creation." Under these circumstances, we venture to suggest that

these stamps may be used for the prepayment of all letters which originate, and are delivered within the limits of the issuing state, whilst the series common to all the states is used solely for correspondence passing from one state to another, or for letters to foreign parts. In support of this view, we may point out that the Tolima stamps above engraved, bear an inscription signifying POST OFFICE OF THE STATE, whilst the ordinary series are inscribed NATIONAL POST OFFICE; and when we remember that the New Granada states were until recently entitled a confederation, the apparent anomaly of co-ordinate "state" and "national" post-offices is explained. At any rate, we shall maintain our version until a better is produced.

FRANCE.—*The Philatelist* states that of the two higher values of the new *chiffre-taxe* stamps, the 40 centimes is printed in blue, and the 60 centimes in buff. We have seen both these values imperforate, and also rouletted.

From a French provincial paper we extract the following reference to some unexpected novelties.

The postal department is occupied with the fabrication of a new class of postage stamps, the necessity for which has long been insisted on by commercial men, namely, stamps specially designed for the prepayment of letters to the colonies, and to be of the values of ONE, TWO, and THREE FRANCS. They will be rather larger than the ordinary postage stamps, and instead of the profile engraved on these last, they will bear a large figure of value.

Thus, then, it would seem that both the seemingly contradictory statements we lately mentioned, as to the design of the forthcoming stamps, are true. The ordinary stamps, such as the 25 c., 40 c., &c., and the low values, will all bear the head of republic, but with large figure of value at each of the lower angles, whilst the special "colonial correspondence" stamps will have the figure of value in the centre.

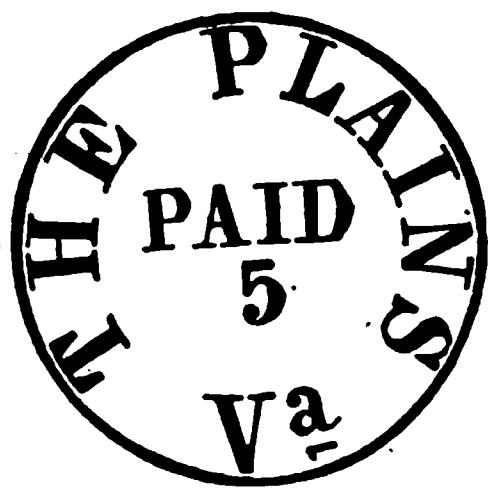
GREAT BRITAIN.—There appeared on the 30th September, 1870, an official postal notice, reading as follows:—

On and after the 1st October next, certain copies of the *London Times* and of the *Stamford Mercury* newspapers will bear an obliterated postage stamp, impressed on the newspaper itself; but this impressed stamp will be available for such copies only as are posted at the General Post-Office, London, or at the Head Post-Office in Stamford, respectively. The postage on copies of the

Times or *Stamford Mercury* posted elsewhere, must be prepaid either by a halfpenny postage label or a stamped newspaper wrapper, otherwise they must be charged with postage.

As our Brighton contemporary remarks, there seems no reason why these two papers should be specially favoured; but that they, and they alone, possess the privilege of using an impressed stamp, is proved by this notice.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—Mr. Scott, in *The*



American Journal of Philately, notices the emission early in the secession war of a number of hand-stamped envelopes (similar to the one here represented), that were probably made by nine-tenths

of the postmasters in the Confederate States.

He says,

The large number of stamps would make a list well calculated to frighten most collectors, even if they did not get a chance to be scared by the ugly originals. The design usually consisted of the dating stamp of the office, with (to use an Hibernianism) the date left out, and the figures of value either printed or written in its place. In some cases, they were authenticated by the initials of the postmaster, written across or on the back. Some, such as the Statesville and Columbia, which have a distinct design, I have included in the list. As I said before, the large number of these stamps, together with the impossibility of making a list of them, owing to the many deaths that have occurred among the old postmasters, and others refusing information, or forgetting, what they considered so trifling a circumstance, which occurred ten years ago, will probably deter most amateurs from trying to obtain a collection; but as they are as genuine and authentic stamped envelopes as ever any issued by any government, and fully as interesting as the much-sought-after British Guiana provisionals, I should certainly advise every collector to endeavour to obtain a few varieties of them. They were issued, like all other provisionals, because the postmasters could not get government stamps, and found it impossible to carry on their offices by taking the pay for each letter; and, when we consider, that in the South, there was not at that time any change under a dollar, it will at once be seen that it was simply impossible to take the pay and give change for each letter. This accounts for the enormous number of these stamps issued, as the dullest P. M. in the service had either to devise some kind of stamp or give up his office; and as office-holders are not usually prone to do that, the result was the simple contrivance that has been described. These stamped envelopes were usually sold nineteen for a dollar for five cent ones, or were stamped free when the parties brought their own envelopes for that purpose.

We think this is a sufficient notice of an unattainable, though not uninteresting class of stamps.

VENEZUELA.—We possess an official stamp of this country, which we describe in the hope of thereby eliciting information concerning it, and ascertaining whether it possesses any postal character. It is a rather large upright oval, adhesive, and printed in a rosy red on white. The inscription which runs round the stamp reads as follows:—EE. UU. DE VENEZUELA. MINIST^o DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES; in the centre is the armorial shield, depicted as on the postal series, with the crossed cornucopiæ and stars above, and the motto LIBERTAD on a scroll beneath; below which again come two other scrolls, or rather the continuation of the one above; the first inscribed 19 DE ABRIL, 1810; the second, 5 DE JULIO, 1811. It appears to us probable that this stamp, or seal, may serve to frank the official correspondence of the Minister for Foreign affairs through the post-office. Can any of our readers give positive information respecting it, and also say what important event in Venezuelan history took place on the second of the above dates?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A new Australian "error" is brought to our notice by one of our correspondents, in the shape of a current twopence, light red, watermarked v. and CROWN. This, we think, is the sole instance of a watermark special to the stamps of one colony being used for those of another, though a feasible explanation ought not to be difficult to find. The South Australian stamps are printed in the same office as the Victorian, or else both colonies get their supply of paper from the same maker, and in either case an accidental transposition has occurred.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—*The Philatelist* publishes the following rather odd intelligence:—

We have official authority for correcting all the previously received descriptions of the adhesives of this republic. It seems that the tree depicted thereon is not an orange tree, as everyone naturally supposed, but the tree of liberty. We are still left to conjecture what the fruit seen on the same may be intended to represent; but, judging by analogy from the fruits of liberty nearer home, we conclude that they are either large bullets or small cannon-balls or bomb-shells. This we have the more right to imagine, as the same authority pronounces the three pendants, hitherto supposed to be peaceful post-horns, to be in reality representations of powder-horns.

This is indeed a new rendering of the emblems on the Orange State stamps, and

we fear that, like many respected traditions, the belief that the tree is, "for a' that and a' that," an orange tree will long linger in the minds of young collectors—if not in those of older ones, more especially if they use their eyes, or a good magnifier, instead of swallowing official authority.

SURCHARGED GERMAN ENVELOPES.—In the article bearing this title, and published in our last, we, rather from inadvertence than want of knowledge, stated that the grey tablet was first impressed on the old embossed envelope stamp, and that then the adhesive was placed over it. The process is, in fact, just the reverse, as more than one correspondent has kindly pointed out. The adhesive is first stuck over the envelope stamp, and then down comes the tablet, not merely crushing out the relief of the latter, but also firmly fixing the former, and thus remedying any imperfection in the adhesion.

RUSSIA.—The exact use of a very large square blue stamp, bearing the Russian arms in the centre, and generally styled a Black Sea local, has always been doubtful. We are now enabled, on the authority of our St. Petersburg correspondent, to state that it was used about seven years ago, for pre-paying sample parcels, &c., from the ports of the Black Sea to Constantinople, Alexandria, &c.

EGYPT.—A change has taken place in the inscription of the Alexandria official, which will probably be extended to all the others. Instead of *Poste Vice Reali Egiziane*, it is now *POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE*; and the Egyptian legend in the centre is likewise altered. Hence it will be seen that the entire stamp has been re-designed, and the title of Khedive supersedes that of Viceroy.

DECCAN.—We appear to have omitted to notice the shades of the issued stamps alluded to in our August number.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna,	claret-red.
1 "	russet-brown.
3 "	light brown.
4 "	slate.
8 "	dark brown.
12 "	pale greenish blue.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—By the Australian mail, *via* Brindisi, we have just received the tenpenny stamp of this colony printed in

red, instead of lilac, and surcharged in black type NINEPENCE.

UNITED STATES.—Annexed is an illustration of the lately-issued 15 cents envelope. The type is ungraceful; the side ovals being inordinately large; but the colour—a bright vermillion—plays charity's part for the engraver's defects.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The following are the varieties with which we have met.

On *quadrillé* paper, 1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s.

On *laid batonné* paper, 1d., 3d., 6d., 1s.

On *laid* paper, 1d., 3d., 1s.

ITALY.—The 10 c. unpaid-letter stamp of the new type, inscribed *SEGNATASSE* (figure in white oval), has now superseded the old issue, of which the stock is nearly exhausted.

GREECE.—The higher values appear to be printed on paper of a greenish hue, and the 40 lepta is changed again to a rich mauve tinge.

ROUMANIA.—The 5 bani stamp of this principality has been changed from scarlet to carmine.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS ONE CENTS STAMP.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your November number that Mr. Atlee, in his reply to my criticism on Boyd's Express stamps, says that he will not believe in a clearly-defined specimen of the one cent stamp, reading 1 *cents*, until he sees one. I now enclose a specimen of this variety from my collection, in which the *s* of *cents* is quite as clear as any other letter. I would feel obliged by your mentioning that you have received this stamp from me, and find it as I represent.

Yours truly,

New York.

CHARLES H. COSTER.

[The above letter was accompanied by a well-preserved, postmarked specimen of the 1 cent Boyd's City Express stamp.—ED.]

HINTS TO COLLECTORS OF CONFEDERATE PROVISIONALS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The search instituted by sundry persons in the States for these things appears to have been crowned with considerable success; so much so, that everyone, from truthful James to the extravagant Scott, discovers his provisionals week after week, as naturally as can be.

This is all as it should be, and is a testimonial to the perseverance of the finders; and no one would object to the discoveries if the authors of them would only be reasonable, and not discover so many copies of every hitherto unknown local. I am often compelled to wonder whether all are genuine. I do not now seek to inquire into the authenticity of the specimens, but will accept all statements of our American cousins with a trustfulness which they would not accord to us.

Let us, however, give a few moments to the consideration of the following; I call them facts, but will put them down as fancies:

The discovery of unknown Confederate provisionals is the result of persistently worrying everyone who is likely to know anything of the subject. When success rewards the seeker, and a new local or provisional is found, it is a rarity for some months, then, as a *general thing* (mind, I do not say as a rule), somebody finds a quantity, which "find" is explained by many hypotheses, of which the following are the two favourites:—

1st.—Somebody has died, and the relatives of the dear departed most curiously find that their lamented fellow-labourer had a habit of secreting a few hundred (sometimes) of one particular provisional (in his desk usually), the very existence of which had been most unaccountably overlooked. It sometimes happened that affection for the departed one (whose consanguinity with the finders is often about as clear as being their mother's uncle on the grandfather's side), prevents his relatives selling them (the stamps, not anything living), except in small quantities, or driblets, so to speak; they usually decline to sell them *all*, with a child-like reverence for memories of the past, which is absolutely touching.

2nd.—The "gentlemanly" postmaster of some out-of-the-way place, with a second-hand name, is impelled by curiosity to look over the papers of his predecessor; impelled thereto simply by the letters of stamp dealers; for no man would adopt the bold and hazardous policy of examining what papers he had lying about, if strangers did not goad him on to it! Results are, discovery of a few sheets which somebody else had caused to be made, or which the "gentlemanly" postmaster had himself made when he was in the bright Lexington of youth (as says the inimitable A. Ward), but the very memory of which had passed from him. These he is magnanimous enough, perhaps, to *give away* to some one (this is what the "some one" never tells *us* though), but, unhappily for poor human nature, a more lively regard for his own pocket usually prevents this flow of generosity, and induces him to allow a few ardent philatelists to place the specimens in their albums, on the interchange of the civilities of payment.

I ought here to state that I am in no way alluding to any but Confederate stamps, and my remarks are only meant for locals and provisionals coming under those States. This is a joking way of plainly putting recent practises; a man gets hold of an indefinite number of one kind of provisional Confederates, single copies of which have always been unattainable. Well, the holder of this stock dribbles out single copies at prices which would shock a conscientious Quaker or a scrupulous Jew. After a few months, every buyer who will pay well will become supplied; consequences are, the balance of these highly-priced locals will be sold for whatever they will fetch. Further consequences are, loss of confidence on all sides, disgust and vituperation, ornamental language from the States, and great harm done to philately.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Birmingham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JAPAN, Dorking.—The V. R. albums are very suitable indeed for beginners. You cannot do better than choose one.

NIHIL, Bridgend.—We do not think any letters from France, bearing the surcharge, "TAKE ALLEMANDE, 2," are to be obtained in this country. They are among the minor postal curiosities of the war, and, perhaps for that reason, rare.

MARMADUKE, Rugby.—The 3 and 6 cent Newfoundland, with bust of Queen, co-exist with the other and older stamps, with value in cents; and we have not heard of any intention to issue an entirely new series adorned with the portrait of the Queen in widow's weeds.

A. S. S., Wokingham.—We cannot inform you the exact *date* of issue of the current black St. Vincent penny; it was first received in August last.—The 4 and 48 sk. of the new issue of Denmark appeared towards the middle of 1870; the remaining values in the early part of the present year.

J. H., Clevedon.—We have already had our attention called to the Glasgow dealer you mention, but we make it a rule not to refer to the proceedings of any one suspected of selling forgeries until we possess sufficient documentary proofs that our suspicions are well founded, acting on the old maxim that it is better ten guilty persons should be let free than that one innocent one should be convicted.

E. W. L., London.—We would advise you to use gum-arabic in the mounting of your stamps, as recommended in the article, "Hints for Mounting Stamps and Envelopes," at p. 35 of vol. viii. of this magazine.—Moens' album, just published, would, we think, answer your purpose; but if you wish to arrange your stamps after your own plan, then we would recommend Alfred Smith & Co's "Two Guinea" album.

E. S., HOMERTON.—Our cut of the rare Sydney embossed stamp is inaccurate, inasmuch as it has the name of the town spelt Sidney, instead of Sydney.—Please send us specimens of the different varieties of the United States one cent to which you refer.—We do not recollect receiving from you any notice of a Rheatown stamp, nor can we well describe it from the very rough outline you give of it; but if you will be good enough to entrust us with your specimen, we will take great care of it, and perhaps have it engraved.—Your 5 cent New Brunswick, pale blue, must be a doctored stamp.

PUZZLED, Guildford, wishes to know how to mount his post cards. We should recommend the use of a separate book for them, of plain thick white paper, with frequent guards; and in such a book the cards might be mounted one under the other, two or three on a page. The whole of the front, as it is covered with a design, should be exposed, and not the upper part alone, as is the practice in mounting envelopes; but, on the other hand, the backs of the cards offer very few points for study, and we almost think they might be hinged directly to the paper. The cards are not yet many in number, nor does there seem much likelihood of there being many values and varieties for each country, unless, indeed, a postal revolution takes place, and cards entirely supersede envelopes, in which event whole series of cards would be required. Meanwhile, their arrangement is easy, and, as they are not very thick, they will not cause the books in which they may be placed to bulge.

THE

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ILLUSTRATED.

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THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XVI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Brunswick.

THE Brunswick stamps offer absolutely no difficulty to the collector, not even that of price, for the rarest* can be obtained for a couple of shillings, and their history is devoid of any obscurity; the present paper can therefore hardly claim to be more than a catalogue of the various issues.

Everyone knows the Brunswick horse, the graceful and all but unique device of the Brunswick stamps—all but unique, for the crown on the $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. quartett alone prevents it from being entirely so. Simple and neat is the sole commendation which the type requires. The earlier issue appeared on the 1st January, 1852, and continued through different editions of colour, paper, &c., down to 1865, when it gave place to the second series, which remained in service until the Brunswick postal department was merged in that of the North German Confederation.

The first three stamps were the 1 sgr. rose, 2 sgr. blue, and 3 sgr. red. They are printed on white paper, and are devoid of watermark. Their circulation lasted only fourteen months; hence, as compared with subsequent emissions, they are rare. The second edition,

* [We think our contributor's remarks must be understood to apply to *cancelled* copies only; for we believe that scarcely one collection known can boast of an *unused* series of the 1, 2, and 3 sgr. of the first issue. In the most famous and complete Continental, as well as British, collections, we do not remember to have seen an entire series; at best, one value was in the condition denominated by our French friends—"passant pour neuf." It is the 1 sgr. which is so rare unused.—Ed.]

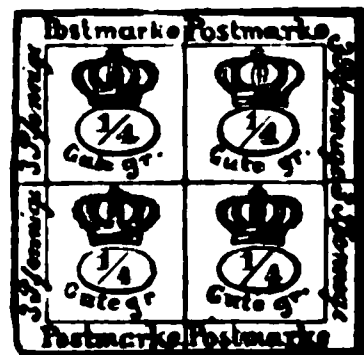


which came out in March, 1853, is in black on coloured paper,—the coloured impression having probably been found hardly sufficiently *prononcée*—and the values are:—

- 1 sgr. orange, yellow, and nankin-yellow.
- 2 „ dark blue.
- 3 „ rose.

To these were added, in March, 1856, two low-value stamps for printed matter,—the $\frac{1}{4}$ sgr. brown and $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. white. All five stamps are watermarked with a post-horn.

In February, 1857, the post-office, apparently thinking that the oblong $\frac{1}{4}$ sgr. was too much for the money, introduced the economical and peculiar postal coupon here represented, of which each quarter, or any two or three, may be used separately. It was printed in black on thickly gummed paper watermarked with a post-horn, and continued in use until the extinction of the Brunswick post-office; but had that office continued a little longer in existence this stamp would have been superseded by an impression of the same design in dark bistre on white paper. The posthumous type is common enough, and should find a place in every collection. It is duly watermarked; it is not a reprint, but an original stamp, and its authenticity is beyond question. The stock, which had been prepared in advance, became the property of some speculative German dealer, and has been disseminated, together, in fact, with the entire oval series, over the four quarters of the globe.



The issue of 1857 continued in uninterrupted circulation until 1862, when, rather oddly, the postal authorities reverted to the style of the first edition, and issued a 3 sgr. rose on white paper, watermarked post-

values were struck on the left upper corner of the envelope, and above them ran the oblique double-line inscription of value in minute letters, followed by the words *POST COUVERT*; the whole printed in blue. Of these stamps there exist several colour varieties, the principal of which may be noted.

1 sgr. yellow, orange-yellow.

2 „ light blue, dull blue, Prussian blue, dark ultramarine.

3 „ pale rose, bright rose, and carmine.

Besides these, two stamps—the 1 sgr. and the 2 sgr.—are found with the lettering in bluish lilac. Collectors who take differences in size and tint of envelopes will note that the stamps are impressed on large and medium-sized envelopes, of which some are white, and some of a rose, green, or blue tint.

The 1865 series is identical in type with the adhesives of the same year, but the relief of the envelope impressions is much higher than that of the adhesives; the same blue lettering as in the preceding series running obliquely above, the youngest collector cannot mistake the one for the other. Of the three values which form this series, the following are the colours:—

1 groschen, bright rose, pale rose, carmine.

2 „ ultramarine, pale and dark.

3 „ brownish bistre, pale bistre.

It will be noticed that in these and their companion adhesives the denomination is changed from *silbergroschen* to *groschen*.

ESSAY.

Borrowing from Dr. Magnus' valuable article in *Le Timbre-Poste* (No. 89), I am enabled to mention the existence of an essay of which the doctor gives the following description: Square stamp, of about five-sixths of an inch in size, in relief on colour, on white paper. Brunswick arms on a coloured ground in a round linear frame contained in a double-lined square frame, inscribed above *BRAUNSCHWEIG*; on each side, *PREIMARKE*; and below, 2 *GROSCHEN*. In the four angles of the frame the figure 2, which is again repeated in the triangular spaces left between the square and the circle. The colours of the four essays in the doctor's possession are—

Black, carmine, light blue, black-bistre.

He is unable to give any special information concerning them, but suppose that they were submitted with the idea, if the type were adopted, that it should serve for both envelopes and adhesives.

Many other colours than those above stated are known to exist in the collections of different amateurs. Some are struck on coloured, and some on laid, as well as on white paper.

NOTES ON SOUTH AMERICAN STAMPS.

FROM "THE PHILATELIST."

IN the first volume of *The Philatelist*, page 38, is the following, which is evidently intended to set at rest the question of the ownership of the portrait borne by the Chilean postage stamps: "It may not be irrelevant to note here the recognition of the head on the Chilean stamps, so long considered to be that of Columbus, but which is now unanswerably ascertained to be a portrait of Ramon Freyre, governor of Concepcion." It seems very strange that, of all the presidents, &c., of Chili, Freyre should have been the one chosen on whom to confer this honour (if it be one); for as far as I have been able to learn, stamps for Chili were not contemplated by him during his presidency, or afterwards; nor has he done anything to entitle him to have his portrait engraved on the stamps of his country. Be this as it may, I trust the following translation, from the *Post-office Ordinance* of Chili, may be considered a still more satisfactory answer to this question:—

Chap. viii., clause 132. "In order to facilitate the prepayment of letters, the Postmaster-General shall take care to issue, for the present, three kinds of postage stamps of the value of 5, 10, and 20 cents. All of them shall bear the bust of Columbus, the inscription '*Correos-Poste-franco-Chile*,' and the designation of their respective values."

Now, turning to vol. iii. of *The Philatelist*, p. 109, in explanation of the word "colon" on the above-mentioned stamps, it is stated "that it is the port to which the stamp

franks the letter." This, again, I beg leave to correct. "Colon" is merely the Spanish for the Italian "Colombo," and refers only to the portrait of Columbus. Allowing that at first the stamps paid letters only as far as Colon, it is to be supposed that in a new issue the word would have been omitted, since, long before the present set made its appearance, the old stamps franked letters to any part of the United States, Cuba, &c.

In the translation given above, it will be seen that no mention is made of the 1 c. stamp of the first emission; this is explained by the fact, that, though nominally a postage stamp, it is in reality a fiscal. The same remark applies to the 1 c. and 2 c. of the present issue. The following may be taken as proofs of this:—(1) The lowest rate of postage in Chili is 5 c. the $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.); and (2) they are not sold at the post-office. It might, however, be suggested, that they were used for local postage, or the payment of newspapers. In both these cases no postage is charged; and the only time the post-office is employed for the delivery of local letters, is in the case of the addressee having a box in the office; otherwise they would be left till called for. It may not be out of place here to state that newspapers, &c., from Chili to any country in South America, and *vice-versâ*, are carried gratis. It is not to be denied, however, that letters may be, and sometimes are, paid by 1 c. and 2 c. stamps. The same thing happens in Bolivia at present.

It may not here be out of place to correct a few of the mistakes made in describing some of the Central and South American stamps. In the Bolivian stamps, the bird surmounting the oval shield is a condor, not an eagle. The animal called by Mr. Atlee a "Noah's-ark-looking sheep," is a guanaco. A condor figures also in the Colombian arms.*

Again, looking through stamp catalogues, I find the stamps of Bolivia, Costa Rica, Salvador, &c., described as "mountain landscape," "sea view," "volcano," &c., respectively; whereas I see no reason why they should not be described as "arms," which

the landscapes, flags, &c., on the above-mentioned stamps, represent.

In the June number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, the editor expresses a desire to know who was dictator of Peru at the time that the "llama" series was issued. His name is Coronel Senor D. Mariano Prado, who, it will be remembered, made himself president, or rather dictator, of Peru shortly before the Spanish war, and was deposed in January, 1868, by Coronel Balta, his successor and present president-elect of Peru, who revived the old type of stamp. Should the present governors of Bolivia follow his example, we may expect to see the "condor" series revived, as General Melgarejo, by whose government the present stamps were issued, was expelled from Bolivia about three months ago. Neither he nor Prado had been elected; hence they are styled "dictators."

DEALERS IN FORGERIES.

THE article which appeared in our November number has brought us several interesting and properly authenticated communications respecting the dealers in forged stamps. In the first place, we have received from one correspondent a so-called prize, won by him in the Yorkshire Stamp Union got up by Mr. Calvert, of Hull, and consisting of a set of perforated *forgeries*, of the *spurious* St. Thomas and Porto Rico stamps, of the estimated value of six shillings. The character of the Stamp Union needs no further illustration.

From the firm of SIDNEY, SIMPSON, & Co., George Yard, HULL, another correspondent has received a batch of forgeries, comprising imitations of the Salvador 4 reales, Mexican $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue, Bolivian 500 c., &c. All these stamps were comprised in a *sixpenny* packet, and the packet was accompanied by a sheet of forged stamps similar to the one described in our last, together with a letter identical in its terms with the one we reproduced.

We find, also, that a new firm, entitled Clayburn, Dixon, & Co., dating from 29, Trinity Street, Hull, has sprung up; and we notice that it also offers the imitation St. Thomas and Porto Rico stamps at six

* [In vol. iii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 153, this is queried.—ED]

shillings per set, the price quoted by Mr. Calvert.

Under these circumstances, we have a strong suspicion that the firms trading under the style of

Charles H. Calvert & Co., Derringham St., Hull;

Sidney, Simpson & Co., George Yard, Hull; Clayburn, Dixon, & Co., 29, Trinity St., Hull, if not all conducted by one and the same person, are worked by one and the same set of persons; are, in fact, the same concern under different titles, and each and all *sell forged stamps*. We do not deal in motives, or speak of the extent to which they may be aware of the character of the stamps, but we are free to assert the *fact* above given, leaving it to the interested parties to prove their integrity, and our readers, meanwhile, to draw their own conclusions.

Now we come to another dealer in forged stamps, named JAMES THOMPSON, of 182, North Street, GLASGOW. He appears to be driving a lucrative trade, if we may judge by the number of sheets he has already sent out. From him, through the intermediary of one of our correspondents, we have received two sheets of forgeries, each bearing the following heading:—

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS
FOR COLLECTORS.

All Stamps must be returned within fourteen days.

No. _____

The stamps are disposed with less artistic arrangement than those of the Hull firms. They are placed close together, so that on the larger sheet there are five rows of twelve imitations, and on the smaller, three rows of ten. The imitations are of the same class as those which reach us from Hull; among them we meet with several which have been described by Mr. Atlee in the pages of our contemporary, *The Philatelist*; such as the Salvador, the Straits Settlements, Roumania, Liberia, Mexico, Egypt, Bolivia, &c. Some of the stamps offered, would, if genuine, be worth from sixpence to a shilling and upwards; others are no cheaper for being forged, and the impressions of the Charles Van Diemen impositions are genuine. The St. Thomas and Porto Rico forged myths

make their appearance, and, indeed, seem to be the distinctive mark of all the sheets of forgeries. All, or nearly all, come from those arch imitators,—not to use a harsher name with regard to a house which makes a great pretence of acting honestly—Messrs. Spiro Brothers, of Hamburg, who must find not only a good customer in Mr. Thompson, but in some other Glasgow dealers, whose wares we hope shortly to notice.

To Mr James Thompson we have to make the same observation as to the others. His responsibility is in no way protected by the omission of the words, "All guaranteed genuine," or others to the same purport, from his sheets. He offers "Foreign Postage Stamps," and such the imitations he sells are not; if, therefore, he knows that they are not, he is as culpable as a vendor of wooden nutmegs; if he is unaware of their character, he had better learn a little more about stamps before he advertises them, and, wittingly or unwittingly, is instrumental in deceiving collectors.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

NICARAGUA.—There is nothing like waiting. After the necessary exercise of patience, the one centavo stamp for this republic, announced a twelvemonth since as about to appear, has actually turned up, and is found to agree with the description given of it in advance. The type resembles in the main that of the other values, the inscription being like that on the five cents; the colour is light brown.

UNITED STATES.—We deem it as well to reproduce an illustration which appeared in our last number, as the paragraph—written hurriedly at the moment of going to press—requires recasting. By an oversight, which we profoundly regret, we described this stamp in terms which must have led our readers to suppose that it had been recently issued. In point of fact the design is that of an essay,

respecting which some really trustworthy information is wanted, for but little is positively known about it at present. M. Moens, who possesses the copy from which the above engraving was taken, says it is cut round, having a margin of four-fifths of an inch on all sides, and the *vergeure* is horizontal; which, he argues, is a proof that it is a newspaper band, the envelopes having the *vergeure* obliquely placed. But there never has been a journal stamp of that value in the United States, a fact which is conclusive against this impression being one. The colour also has not been borne by a fifteen cent adhesive, and the envelopes are always of the same colour as their companion label. The head is unquestionably that of Lincoln; and from this fact, coupled with the type of the design, we argue that the impression was probably struck as a proof at about the time of the emission of the 15 c. adhesive black, with head of Lincoln.

Since the above was in type, we learn that there are two copies of this essay in Mr. Philbrick's collection, the one on white paper, laid *vertically*; the other on buff, also laid *vertically*, but watermarked P. O. D., U. S., as in the United States envelopes then current (1868). Both impressions are in blue, of a deep tint, and so far from being out close, are about 3 inches square. Mr. Philbrick informs us he received them as proofs of an envelope, value 15 cents, intended to be issued; and this fully explains our view,—that they are envelope *essays*; essays of the United States envelopes are usually on paper laid *vertically*, as contradistinguished from the oblique *vergeures* of the envelopes themselves.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—We were really sorry to think that the engraving recently published in *The Philatelist* represented the adopted type of the series of German postage stamps. It was so ridiculously ugly that we could not but wonder what the German postal authorities were thinking about when they accepted it.

In point of fact, however, these said authorities have shown very good taste in their selection of a design for the initial series of postage stamps for imperial Germany; and our readers need only turn to

the advertisement sheet of the present number to assure themselves, by ocular examination of the specimen of the $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen, which will be found there, that our opinion is borne out by the appearance of that stamp. The design is the same for all the values: the new imperial arms—consisting of a one-headed eagle, with the Prussian escutcheon displayed on its breast—in white relief, on an uncoloured quadrille ground, in circle; DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST above, in a curved line, and the value below, the ground outside the circle being formed of network, and the whole enclosed in a thick linear frame of the same colour as the stamp, after the fashion of the Alsace and Lorraine series. Although these labels do not exceed, but, if anything, are rather under the usual size, they unite the two characteristics of a well designed postage stamp, namely, clearness and a pleasing appearance. The inscriptions are neatly cut and readable; the figures of value are unmistakably plain; the whole design is simple, and yet by the aid of bright hues, and especially of an external band of colour, the effect is charming. The values are—

$\frac{1}{4}$	groschen	rich mauve.
$\frac{1}{2}$	"	light green.
$\frac{3}{4}$	"	orange-red.
1	"	rose.
2	"	ultramarine.
5	"	stone.

There has also been issued a 1 groschen envelope, of which the design is substantially the same as its companion adhesive; but the lettering is sunken, and the white network raised; whilst the frame, instead of presenting a broad margin of colour, consists of a simple coloured line, of hardly more than the ordinary thickness; and a two-line inscription, in pale grey, diagonally crosses the stamp. The impression is more careful than that of the adhesives. These latter appear to be printed in two operations, the arms being struck after the frame has been impressed, and hence it arises that in them the arms vary in position, and are sometimes found encroaching on the border. For the envelopes, the two dies must have

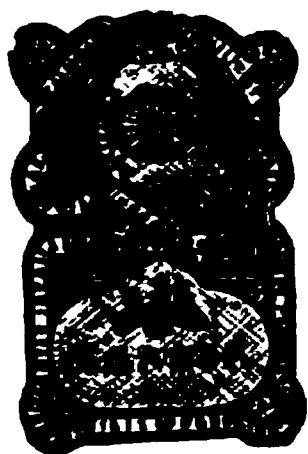
been united, and greater accuracy is the result. It is likely that only this one envelope will be issued to accompany the groschen series, but the kreuzer series of adhesives, which we have to chronicle, will also have its companion 3 kreuzer envelope.

The *kreuzer* stamps are identical in design with the groschen series; the values alone are changed, and they are made, as in the preceding series, to correspond as closely as possible with their congeners. They are as follows:—

1 kreuzer	light green.
2 "	orange-red.
3 "	rose.
7 "	ultramarine.
18 "	stone.

In addition to these there have been issued newspaper bands of the value of $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. and 1 kr., respectively, both printed in green like the adhesives.

JAPAN.—We referred, at vol. ix., p. 180, to the existence of a previously unknown Japanese stamp or seal, discovered by the *Magazin für den Sammler*; we are now



able to give an engraving of it, and our readers will agree with us that the design is one of the most ingenious and grotesque ever seen. It has quite the look of a Chinese puzzle, and we may appropriately add that its employment is a mystery.

It exists both perforated and unperforated;—another inexplicable circumstance, for the Japanese postage stamps proper are all unperforated. The emblems appear to be the same as those borne by the new silver coins, of American manufacture, namely, sun surrounded by rays, and three flowers; although on the coins the position of these emblems is reversed. In the ribbons, the roman letters X L J are several times repeated;—a further puzzle. The sun, the flowers, and the inscription on the disk, are printed in black; the rest of the stamp in blue; on white paper. No value being indicated, it is argued that the stamp may be used to seal official documents. If this should meet the eye—of any person capable

of explaining its employment, or of giving any other information respecting it, he will confer a favour on philatelists by publishing the intelligence.

FRANCE.—It is asserted that the new stamps are to make their appearance this 1st of January; meanwhile, we may notice the emission of the new receipt stamp, as it presents several novel features. First of all, the inscription is simply "France," instead of "République Française;" and this has been deliberately done to meet the possibility of changes in the government, and to avoid wounding any person's susceptibilities by an apparent preference for any one form;—a most striking proof of the instability of all forms on the other side of the water. Secondly, the stamps are protected against forgery by the fabrication in the paper of rectangular white disks, of about half an inch in size, arranged between the stamps so that each stamp has the half of a disk on either side; the centre of the design, on which the figure of value appears, being left dark. When a sheet of these stamps is held up to the light, the effect of the semi-transparent squares is very curious. Thirdly, the design is printed on a lithographed reticulated groundwork; and, fourthly, the stamps are not perforated. We shall be curious to learn whether the changes in the style of engraving thus introduced, will be noticeable in the forthcoming postage stamps, and we certainly think it regrettable that engravers so renowned for their pre-eminence should retrograde so far, after the production of masterpieces such as the stamps of 1848 and those of the empire.

At the moment of going to press, we receive the following communication from a friend in Paris:—

I have seen the following announcement made in three papers, and (I believe) in the *Journal Officiel* also:—

The circulation of the new postage stamps, with a very conspicuous figure in the centre, commenced yesterday. The administration has commenced the issue with the five centimes stamps, those of 15 and 25 c. are to follow. (13 Dec., '71).

In consequence, I called at one of the principal district offices, and also at the head office, but they told me that they had not any of the said stamps. At the chief office they also told me the government had no intention to make any alteration in those actually in use, and that the stamps referred to must be for fiscal purposes, like the 10 c. receipt stamps.

We are none the less convinced that the

new stamps will shortly make their appearance, and have indeed seen some essays which we hope to describe next month; meanwhile, for information on postal matters, commend us above all to a Parisian official!

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—These now begin to form a regular item in our monthly batch of novelties, and we are very glad to be able thus to introduce them to our readers, as they present considerable interest, and are not now so rare as they once were; moreover, the makers of shams and forgeries have not yet contributed any spurious stamps or counterfeits; consequently no difficulties or suspicions surround their collection, such as render the attempt to collect American locals such an unthankful one.

Cherson.—The annexed type was duly described in the list published by us last July, and it represents the second issue for Cherson; but one important characteristic not mentioned by our correspondent distinguishes it from all the other locals—it is perforated. The design is

very clear and far from devoid of merit. The courier in the centre is printed in black, and the rest of the stamp is in red. The value is a high one for a local stamp—10 kopecs.

Berdiansk.—This stamp we described so long since as in May last, and had not our sole specimen been mislaid, the annexed engraving would have been given immediately after. The design is, relatively, rather a neat one, and is printed in three colours; the upper section is printed in green, the plough and hovel being outlined in black; the lower section is blue, and the anchor is black; the external frame is uncoloured. The inscription reads—**STAMP OF BERDIANSK RURAL POST.**

Belozersk.—A year ago we published an engraving of the 2 kop. stamp for this dis-

trict, a most unpretending affair consisting simply of an inscription in black, on a ground of coloured lines; but Belozersk aspires to something of a more ornate and distinctive character, and has just produced the annexed design, which presents a

droll combination of emblems, crescent and cross together—to what event can such a mixture point?—and below that device two fishes *saltire*. The execution of this design is not so remarkable as its conception. The fishes are but half visible, and the whole impression, which is black on white, is very rough. The value is 3 kopecs.

Valdai.—Both Belozersk and Valdai are in the Novgorod government; and on the Valdaian stamp we find a crown of the same shape as that which figures on the Novgorod emission. The peak which occupies the right-hand half is probably the distinctive device of Valdai itself, if we may venture on the conjecture; but the sight of these stamps gives rise in our mind, and probably in that of our readers, to a great desire to know what may be the history and signification of their devices. These armorial bearings have not been lightly assumed; they must contain within themselves the souvenir of some obscure but interesting incident in Russian history, must perpetuate the memory of some curious local event, have been adopted in honour of some important local staple, or contain allusion to some little-known geographical feature. The Valdaian label hints at the existence of a mountain,—what and where is that mountain? By such inquiries, and the research to which they give rise, the value of stamp-collecting as an educational agent is vindicated to an extent undreamt of by the earlier philatelists. We, for our part, hope to learn a great deal more of Russia than we at present know, through the issue of these local stamps; and we venture to hope that our obliging correspondent at St. Petersburg will put us, and through us, perchance, our readers, in the way of acquiring some know-



ledge respecting the designs of the stamps, the mode in which the rural postal service is performed, and many other kindred matters. Returning, for a moment, to the Valдай stamp, we have only to say, repeating the information given in July last, that the design is printed in black, on deep rose paper, and that the inscription signifies VALDAI DISTRICT RURAL COURT.

FINLAND.—This province seems, in postal matters, to be always in advance of the rest of the Russian empire. It is now using post cards, whilst the St. Petersburg post office has not yet issued those which are intended for the "governments" under its control. The Finnish card is a handsome one, larger than most of the others, and the design is printed in green on buff, an excellent combination. The exterior frame is composed of an etruscan border, and in the centre of the card is the inscription KORRESPONDANSKORT, in an arched line, with FÖR FINLAND below. An impression from the die of the 8 pennia adhesive occupies the left upper corner, and the contrast is striking between its rough outlines and the finished engraving of the inscription and border. We should add that below the legend the usual lines for the address appear, and are accompanied by the words TILL and BESTÄMMELSEORT in caligraphic characters; beneath these again come some short directions, printed in block type; and the back of the card is ruled with fine dotted lines.

Together with the card we have received a kind of stamp which will have to be classed "all by itself." When a registered letter is delivered, the receiver, under certain circumstances, may have to give (or must give, for we are not certain whether it is obligatory on his part to do so) a stamped receipt for it, which is returned (free) by the post-office to the sender. The receipt form is about 6 in. by 3½, and bears an impression of the 10 pen. adhesive, in rose, in the upper left corner. The legend commences with the title, in large type—RETOUR RECEPISSE FÖR FINLAND—and then follows the form of receipt, supplemented by certain instructions at foot. On the reverse of the form is repeated, but in Finnish, the heading, reading—PALUUKUITTI SUOMENMAALLA. The form

is gummed on the front side, down its left margin, for the purpose, we presume, of attaching it to the letter to which it relates. The stamp is evidently struck before the form is printed on, as some of the letter-press encroaches on it.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.—Of the post cards for these countries there are two varieties which have not hitherto been noticed. The first Austrian post card has a shield and crown under the inscription CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE, and, moreover, the stamp is in rather pale yellow, whilst the card is buff; the second card has the double-headed and crowned eagle under the inscription; the stamp is printed in an orange yellow, the card itself being of a light yellow colour.

We gave an illustration of one of the Hungarian post cards in our June number, which has, in its upper right corner, an impression from the die of the current Hungarian adhesives, and in the centre an inscription, in two lines, the upper in Magyar, the lower in German; but this was not really the first card issued for Hungary. It was preceded by one which was in all respects but one the exact copy of the old Austrian card above noticed. It has the impression of the Austrian 2 kr. yellow in the upper right corner, and the same framework; it has also the crown and shield, but the arched inscription above is LEVELEZESI LAP, instead of CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE. At the back of the card, as on the Austrian, there are two lines of print, one at top and one at bottom. Even in size this first Hungarian card was identical with its Austrian prototype; whilst the new emission is quite one-fifth of an inch wider, and an eighth longer. Evidently the first card, on which the inscriptions are exclusively in Magyar, was prepared as if for the Hungarians alone, the authorities forgetting that for the Germans scattered there, a card with inscriptions they could comprehend would also be required; and in the new issue, care has been paid to this matter by printing the inscriptions in both languages.

Of the engraved Hungarian series (which we were the first to notice) there are now in circulation four values, viz., 2, 3, 5, and 10 kreuzer.

We have seen the cover of a letter from

the chief post-office at Vienna, which was franked by a 5 kr. fiscal stamp,—we mean one of the series with leaf groundwork and value in centre of a circle. This particular stamp has the value in words, following the under edge of the circle, and the date below that surcharged in dull green; it is post-marked like an ordinary label, and above it is a handstamp struck *before* the adhesive was affixed, consisting of a transverse oval, with the inscription K.K. POSTAMT, WIEN, within in three lines. This seems worthy of at least a passing notice.

FIJI ISLANDS.—*The American Journal of Philately*, in its current impression, publishes the following letter:—

U. S. Consulate, Figi,
Leouka, Ovalou,
Sept. 9th, 1871.

SIR,
Your favour of June 20th, touching the postage stamps of Figi, is received.

The *Fiji Times Express* office has issued a stamp upon its own responsibility.

The Figi government has not yet issued a stamp. It is probable that such will be done within a few months.

I do not know that I can give you any further information.

I remain, yours very truly,
J. W. BROWN,
U. S. Consul.

Our contemporary adds,

The government issue referred to in the above, was to make its appearance on Oct. 1st, and will consist of three stamps, of the values of 3, 5, and 10 cents; the first for inland postage, the second for letters to Sydney, and the third for letters to the United States; they will be adorned with a likeness of King Thakombau, or, as he is now called, Ebenezer.

In connection with these statements, one question occurs to us. Has *The Fiji Times* a postal service of its own; if not, then under what arrangement are its numbers carried?

MONTEVIDEO.—A new supply of the current 5 and 10 c. has arrived there. The disposition of the dies has been altered; for instance, on the sheet of 5 c., the errors *centecimo* are now second and fourth stamps of the seventh row, instead of being fifth and seventh, as before; and the stamp with blank space under horse is now the second stamp in the last row, instead of being fifth, as heretofore. For a list of these errors, we refer the reader to p. 146 of our eighth volume. We may add, that the 5 c. with the last s away

from the rest of the word, which was the sixth stamp of the fifth row, is now the third stamp on the first row; so that, for some unexplained reason, the whole sheet has been rearranged. The impressions, too, are more like lithographs than formerly. The sheets are watermarked T. H. SAUNDERS, 1870. We believe Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald, and Macgregor are the engravers.

PORTO RICO.—A correspondent forwards for description an official frank stamp for this colony, which has not yet been described. It is of large size—an upright oval, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $1\frac{1}{8}$ —and struck in black. The Spanish escutcheon and collar occupy the centre; the border is inscribed GOBIERNO SUPERIOR CIVIL DE PTO. RICO. This stamp was received by our correspondent three or four years since, and was the only stamp on the letter on which it came; it is certainly entitled to be classed with the other handstamped impressions of Spain and her colonies.

NATAL.—We draw our readers' attention to an interesting contribution respecting the varieties of the provisional stamps of this colony, in the shape of a letter, the joint production of five Natal collectors, which appears in the "Correspondence" columns of the present number. We wish success to the studies of this informal little association of philatelists, and hope their example will be followed by our subscribers in other countries.

ROUMANIA.—There seems to be some reason for supposing that the $1\frac{1}{2}$ bani blue and yellow, hitherto printed only on wrappers, is also used as a label. Our publishers have communicated to us an unused and un-gummed specimen *percé à la roulette*, but they state that it is the only one they have seen. The piercing may have been done by some person for a whim, or with intent to deceive, and the issue of the design as an adhesive cannot as yet be considered certain.

ENGLAND.—The Keble College stamp is no longer obliterated with a pencil mark, as stated by our Brighton contemporary, but by a handstamp, with five projecting knobs, producing five round black marks, of which one is in the centre, two above, and two below. We possess a specimen thus obliterated.

TOLIMA.—We are indebted to Mr. Pemberton for notice of the existence of error varieties in the newly issued 5 centavos, occasioned in the transfer of the design from the original die to the lithographic plates, the chief one being the word "*cinco*" written "*cingo*."

ROMAN STATES.—The lately current series has the 5 centesimi with and without stop after figure of value. Similarly the 40 c. is found with the stop after "cent," and the stop between the figure and the word "cent."

CEYLON.—We have official information from Colombo to the effect, that from the 1st January, 1872, new postage labels will, in connection with the decimal system, be issued in *rupees* and *cents*.

SWITZERLAND.—The colour of the impression upon the 5 centimes band has been altered from red to pale rose. We do not know whether the 2 c. has undergone the same transformation.

AUSTRIAN BRANCH OFFICES.—A correspondent informs us that the 25 soldi stamps received on letters by the last Turkish mails are purple-black.

SHANGHAI.—Of the first issue another variety has been discovered, viz., the chocolate (cand.), with the word *candareen* spelt *gandareen*.

SERVIA.—We have the authority of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, for stating that a post card is to be issued for this principality.

LUXEMBOURG.—The 30 centimes is now issued perforated, on line of colour; the stamp itself remains unchanged.

MEXICO.—The 12 c. stamp of the republic is now printed on brown paper, same as that used for the 6 c.

ST. THOMAS.—The sole label used in this island—the 3 cents—is now perforated *à la roulette*.

CASHMERE.—The 1871 issue of the 4 anna green, and 8 anna red, is on *glossy* thin laid paper.

HELGOLAND.—The one schilling is issued with machine perforations.

HOLLAND.—The current 10 centimes is found on bluish paper.

ANGOLA.—The 10 reis is now of a rich golden yellow.

POSTAL SPHERES.

DURING the Prussian siege of Paris great interest was excited, not only in the French provinces, but also in foreign countries, among all those who had relatives or friends in the besieged capital, by the announcement that letters properly prepaid and addressed, *Paris, via Moulins (Allier)*, would duly reach their destination. It was an official announcement; the grounds on which it was made are exposed in a report of the meeting of the French Academy of Sciences on the 21st November, published by the *Journal Officiel de la République*; and as the facts therein narrated disclose a novel phase in the history of postal communications, we make no excuse for reproducing them.

As soon as the armistice was signed (says the report), how many persons, confident that their letters had been duly delivered, asked the Parisians, "But what signified the mysterious words, '*via Moulins (Allier)*'?" and the Parisians were much puzzled to reply, for at that time only the governor of Paris and the provincial delegation were in the secret, together with the inventors of the mode of communication which gave rise to the formula.

In fact, on one of the first days of October, MM. Vonoven, Delort, and Robert presented themselves at the Louvre, with a plan, asserted to be infallible, for getting letters through from the provinces to Paris. It was very simple, but very efficacious, and consisted in the use of spheres, or balls of zinc, with float-boards, like those of a mill-wheel fixed over their surface; the balls to be hollow, and 800 letters to be packed in each. These balls were to be flung into the Marne or the Seine, as near as possible to Paris; and it was suggested, that being drawn along by the current, they would roll down the bed of the river, dragging themselves (by means of the float-boards) over such obstacles as they might encounter, and descending the stream as far as Paris, where, at the Port-à-l'Anglais, was to be stretched a large receiving net. Was this practicable?

The proposed system was first tried in the Bièvre, near the Hautes-Bruyères, and under the enemy's cannon. The progress of the

spheres was rapid; they were seen rolling along the bed. Clearer proof, however, was required. On the 1st December, a gun-boat ventured up to within 150 metres of the Prussian out-posts, bearing on its deck the postmaster-general, M. Rampont, and one of the spheres was flung out in the direction of the town.

After a great deal of trouble a net of the required dimensions had been manufactured, and placed across the stream at Port-à-l'Anglais. The next day, in presence of a number of witnesses, the globe, sealed and fastened by the administration, and flung the previous evening into the Seine, was found caught in its meshes.

Thenceforth hesitation was at an end; the inventors received orders to work their plan in the provinces, and a balloon carried off them and their *matériel*, depositing them at La Ferté Bernard. It was not so easy as one might have supposed to get the necessary authority to fling the spheres into the river, for MM. Delort and Robert did not obtain the permission to do so until the 27th December. From that date a postal agent went religiously, night and morning, in rain and snow, and during the bombardment, to take up the net at the Port-à-l'Anglais,—but nothing came as it ought to have done.

The first batch sent consisted of four spheres; the Prussians had retaken Auxerres; the balls had to be flung in at Bray-sur-Seine, the letters themselves having been brought from Moulins (Allier). One of the inventors, M. Robert, collected them, deposited them in the spheres, and by a circuitous route arrived at the forest of Fontainebleau. The immersion of the spheres took place sometimes at Thomery, and sometimes at the bridge of Sannois; and thus things went on until the 1st February. Fifty-five balls in all were flung into the water, and contained a total of more than 40,000 letters. The cold weather had arrived at Paris, then the frosts. The ice had swept away the dams and stockades; the net could not make any resistance; everything was carried away; and by the time a new net had been got ready, the armistice was signed. And the spheres—and the letters? A great number were fished up in the Seine and on the

sea-coast. The balls had performed their journey so well that the sea, at high tide, sent them back again on the shore. Those thus recovered have been opened and the letters distributed.

And this is the way in which the letters for Paris, *viâ* Moulins (Allier), *ought* to have reached the capital in proper time, if, in that unfortunate year, 1870, the very elements had not taken sides against France.

THE HAITIAN 25 c. STAMP RECONSIDERED.

FROM time to time a 25 c. stamp, which we have persisted in believing to be spurious, has been the subject of discussion; and not a few collectors, including so good an authority as Mr. Pemberton, have asserted their faith in its genuineness. Mr. Pemberton grounds his belief on the remarks of Mr. William Thomas Kitt (an old and respected collector, well acquainted with Haitian affairs), published at page 174 of our sixth volume. Mr. Kitt says that the device on the stamps really represents the armorial bearings of the republic, and that the Haitian currency being—in contradistinction to that of the neighbouring state of St. Domingo—a decimal one, modelled on that of the French, it was only natural that the value should be expressed in *cents* or *centimes*. But Mr. Kitt, on the other hand, observes, that as the arms are those of the republic, and General Salnave had just changed the form of government from a republic to an empire, the stamp in question could at most be only an essay, as Salnave would not tolerate the emission of stamps bearing republican emblems. Thus, then, the authority on whom Mr. Pemberton most leans is more against than for the stamp, and, except that our objection to the denomination of value is overruled, our opinion of the character of the stamp remains unimpeached; and we are now in possession of important testimony in favour of our judgment, in the shape of a letter, written by the British Vice-Consul and Post-Office Agent at Port-au-Prince, to one of our correspondents who had had the "happy thought" of inquiring of him whether he knew

anything of the stamp. His letter reads as follows:—

H. B. M. Consulate General,
Port-au-Prince,
November 8, 1871.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 10th ult., I have no hesitation in stating that the postage stamps you speak of are *forgeries*, and made for the mere purpose of sale to persons who, like yourself, may be curious in such matters.

I have been resident in Hayti, with but two short intermissions, for nineteen years; and am able, consequently, to state very positively that no government of that country has ever adopted or authorized the manufacture of any postage stamps whatever. I should be very glad, however, if you would send me a specimen of the stamps you refer to, in order that I might show it to the government of this country.

I am, Sir,

Yours, faithfully,

HENRY BYRON,

H. M.'s Vice-Consul in Hayti, and British
Post-office Agent at Port-au-Prince.

Now the evidence of a gentleman who has so long resided, and still resides, in the very town in which, if anywhere, the stamp must have been used, seems to us conclusive; and it is hardly necessary to seek an explanation of the issue of this now unquestionably spurious impression. Still we may observe, that in 1867 the well-known sham 2 reales carmine of St. Domingo made its appearance, and was so extremely well got up that it deceived almost everyone. It was not only that the design accurately represented the arms, but the obliterations also were of a nature to disarm suspicion. Seeing that this imposture took so well, what is more probable than that its concoctors should have turned their attention to the fabrication of an equally plausible type for the Haitian Republic; or, that finding this second humbug was at once discredited, they should have discontinued to print it. It was only a twelvemonth after the fraudulent St. Domingo was launched that the equally fraudulent Haitian was brought upon the market, and the accuracy with which the arms of the republic were depicted, and the currency adhered to, only shows that the contrivers of the sham had been careful to give it every chance of success. It could be a matter of no great difficulty to discover what were the true armorial bearings of Haiti. Mr. Kitt possesses coins which show them; and other persons could, with but little research, discover equally au-

thentic copies, or could obtain the necessary information from books. That there existed sufficient obstacles to the emission of stamps in Haiti during the years 1867-8, is proved by a letter published at page 86 of our fifth volume, in which the writer, dating from Port-au-Prince (March 20th, 1867), says:—

I have just returned from Cape Haitien, and did not forget to make the inquiries respecting stamps (which you requested me to do) there, as well as in Port-au-Prince. The Haitian government is too much occupied with internal broils—in the shape of revolutions—to give much attention to postal matters, consequently the republic of Haiti cannot at present boast of possessing postage stamps.

The state of things here indicated existed until, and after, the appearance of the illustration of the stamp in our pages, and is testified to by Mr. Kitt, in the letter referred to at the commencement of this article.

We have reason to give a pretty shrewd guess as to the parentage of the impostures. Boston, of course, knows all about them; and that 'cute philatelist, Mr. S. A. Taylor, will doubtless be able to supplement our efforts by tracing them to their unclean source.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

VALUABLE TO CATALOGUE MAKERS.—The inscription on the Chili stamps written short,—“:” (colon).

THE SWISS TRAVELLING POST-OFFICE.—Letters posted at the station whence the travelling van starts, are stamped with the word “Ambulant,” and a number.

WRAPPERS from which the contents have slipped out are now marked at the post-office with a handstamp consisting of the inscription, FOUND IN N. P. B. WITHOUT CONTENTS, and also with another stamp—a linear oblong, with notched corners, bearing within the letters N. P. B. and the date. They are then sent out for delivery.

STAMPS IN LETTERS.

It seems that postmen, evil scamps,
Steal, because they can smell, our stamps:
Therefore, when sending them, you'd better
(A lady writes) perfume your letter:
And with the profit be content;
'Twill be a case of *sent per scent*.—*Punch*.

AN ODD POSTMARK.—We possess the envelope of an unstamped letter from France, bearing a handstamped upright oval, transversely divided by a bar, above which are the letters FR., and below 1^r. 50c.; beside this oval is a large handstamped “6d. ;” and as sixpence was all that was claimed, we should like to know why the sum of 1 l. 50 c. was mentioned. A sapient French postal employé told us it was always put, but could not say why; and as we had never seen it before, we take leave to doubt the exactness of his statement.

THE "FIJI TIMES."—This paper enjoys the distinction of having had a set of postage stamps issued for its exclusive benefit. The type was figured in our May number, and we now extract from *The Printers' Register* respecting this highly-honoured paper, and its editor's trials:—

"There is only one newspaper published in the Fiji islands, and it is, of course, called the *Times*. The gentleman who edits it appears to be held in high estimation by the white settlers, for the *Fiji Times* is the court of appeal in all cases of dispute. Unfortunately, however, the editor's decision is not always accepted as final; and it occasionally happens that the parties non-suited fall upon the umpire and grievously beat him. Thus, at the date of the last advices, the editor had been 'assaulted thrice in three weeks—once by the Consul's secretary, once by a sea captain, and once by the post-master.' It is evident that if matters go on at this rate, there will shortly be a vacancy on the staff of the leading journal in the Fijis, and a favourable opening made for a series of 'gentlemen of literary tastes' who find the home market overstocked."

CURIOUS ADDRESSES ON LETTERS.—Some time about the first decade of the present century, a letter arrived at the post-office, Edinburgh, bearing the Inverness post-mark, with the following address:—"Here she goes to Embro to Donal my brother chairman to a chairmans master up a close and down a stair if this no find him the Deil no find him." The letter was exhibited in the shop-window of a confectioner in the upper end of Northbridge-street, where the Highland porters usually congregate, in expectation of its being claimed by the rightful owner.—

Messrs. Mac Arthur, Mac Vicar, and Mac Corquodale, stationers in Liverpool, a few years since, duly replied to a letter addressed to Mac Adder, Mac Viper, and Mac Crocodile.

The following was received by a relative of a correspondent:—

Dear, honest Postman, be so kind
To take this to a friend of mine;
She is a Fox, Lucy's her name,
In Swallow street you'll find the same;
She is a little cruel toad,
And lives not far from Oxford road.

—Notes and Queries.

THE DEAD LETTER.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

And can it be? Ah, yes, I see,
'Tis thirty years and better
Since Mary Morgan sent to me
This musty, musky letter.
A pretty hand (she couldn't spell),
As any man must vote it;
And was't, I remember well,
A pretty hand that wrote it!

How calmly now I view it all,
As memory backward ranges—
The talks, the walks, that I recall,
And then—the postal changes!
How well I loved her I can guess
(Since cash is Cupid's hostage)—
Just one-and-sixpence—nothing less—
This letter cost in postage!

The love that wrote at such a rate,
(By Jove! it was a steep one!)
Five hundred notes (I calculate),
Was certainly a deep one;

And yet it died—of slow decline—
Perhaps suspicion chilled it;
I've quite forgotten if 'twas mine
Or Mary's flirting killed it!

At last the fatal message came;
"My letters—please return them;
And yours—of course you wish the same—
I'll send them back or burn them."
Two precious fools, I must allow,
Whichever was the greater;
I wonder if I'm wiser now.
Some seven lustres later?

And *this* alone remains! Ah, well!
These words of warm affection,
The faded ink, the pungent smell,
Are food for deep reflection.
They tell of how the heart contrives
To change with fancy's fashion,
And how a drop of musk survives
The strongest human passion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TRANSVAAL ENVELOPE AND GERMANIC CARDS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I cannot claim the credit or discredit of denying the authenticity of the ladies' size South African envelopes, which I received direct from the postmaster as a genuine postal emission. The reply to C. W., in the November number of *The Philatelist*, as well as the review of Brown's Price Catalogue, were penned by some other hand. I should not have used such an expression as "miserable Germanic cards;" believing, as I do, that, notwithstanding their want of facial beauty, being employed for strictly postal purposes on government authority, they are, and should be, equally interesting to collectors, in a philatelic point of view, with the black Nova Scotians, or the most exquisite productions of the American Bank Note Company.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR OF *THE PHILATELIST*.

ECUADOR AND BOLIVIAN VARIETIES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—By the last mail from Panama, I received the 2 and 4 rls. of Ecuador on *bluish*, instead of white paper. It is just possible that the remaining values may also have appeared on the same paper.

I have noticed lately, that the Bolivian dollar pieces, coined in this year, have *eleven* stars, instead of the ordinary number, *nine*. The same difference has been noticed in the stamps (see August *Philatelist*).

Now, as both coins and stamps bear the *arms* of Bolivia (and not a landscape, as described in all the stamp catalogues that I have seen), and as the *nine* stars represent the nine departments into which the country is (or was) divided, it is evident that there must be some cause for this addition to the arms; and though I live in a neighbouring republic, I have read nought in the papers about an augmentation of the number of Bolivian provinces.

The Bolivian stamps with eleven stars, may therefore, I think, be accepted as belonging to a *new* issue.

Yours obediently,
Valparaiso. F. W. M.

BOYD'S EXPRESS STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Since writing last month, I have obtained proof of the authenticity of Mr. Coster's second type, then disbelieved in by me. Having seen this type in a genuine cancelled state, my doubts are set at rest, and I now acknowledge its true worth. The following is a correct description of it: Ground plain; head of eagle thin and pointed, left wing pressing against the border; more than half of the globe shown, and with oblique shading at top and on right side; middle line of longitude carried through the outer oval, and touching the figure; no stops; central oval with line outside, and outer oval with line inside.

Even as I correct others, so I correct myself.

I see that want of space caused you somewhat to condense my last paper. One sentence in particular has been expunged, which, in justice to myself, I must now set right.

Relative to the fictitious locals, I wrote, "All the following are, *I fully believe*, purely imaginary labels of imaginary companies." The omission of the words in italics made me the author of an unqualified assertion, admitting of no doubt, when I simply meant to register a certain belief.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham.

W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

DOUBTFUL ERRORS IN IMPRESSION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I find in glancing over some old numbers, that at page 42 of the last volume a sharp-eyed correspondent thought he had discovered some mysterious figures (10) representing the month of issue in each corner of the new halfpenny. I have always viewed these with suspicion, as it requires a slight effort of imagination to make them into 10, the 1 being anything but clear. I have many times studied these mysterious markings in copies which have come before me, and have at last got a clue which enables me to say pretty conclusively that these so-called figures are mere accidental results of the pattern composing the background. If you will now examine a specimen, you will find that these markings are repeated at regular intervals above and below those in the corners, so far as the medallion in centre permits them to be seen; and, moreover, at both sides of stamp, both above and below, may be seen *between* the two marks which have been called figures 1 (though they are more like 3's) a similar mark inverted, as if they were intended as a sort of finish to the horizontal lines of the background. This is only a small matter, but may, perhaps, interest you.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—In vol. viii., p. 90, I notice, in the mention of the varieties with shaded figure of the 1 groschen, which I pointed out to you, that you say that you have never come across a specimen of the envelope with shaded figure. I may say that I do not remember to have seen a copy *without* the shaded figure.

FRANCE.—The varieties of the laureated series of the Empire with lined background are clearly the result of some peculiarity in the process of printing, and not of an alteration in the die. If you will examine a specimen, you will find the lines are visible wherever there is a sufficient surface of colour to show them; in the borders, &c., as well as in the circle containing the head.

I have a 30 c. which has the lines quite distinct on the right-hand side of stamp, and scarcely visible on the left. This easily accounts for the 80 c. existing with the lines running vertically, instead of horizontally.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. C.

Manchester.

P. S.—The 25 soldi of the current Austrian series, arriving by the last Turkish mails, is purple-black; have you met with this variety yet?

THE ARRANGEMENT OF A COLLECTION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—It seems to me very difficult to limit and complete one's collection; shades and varieties of colour are constantly turning up that one cannot discard, and yet they necessitate the rearrangement of a page or more in one's album, if one wishes to keep the specimens in their proper order.

My stamps are all hinged with tissue paper to the paper itself (a plain book); but I have for some time past wanted to move them into another album, and am desirous of getting the *right* and *last* one this time.

Can you inform me what the principle of the "crotchet" system is? As to mounting the stamps on card, and then affixing these to the album, I do not think the plan a good one at all; the book must necessarily be very bulgy, and the card mounts would tend to keep the leaves apart, and admit dust and damp.

I have never seen the stamps mounted as described some time ago in your magazine, by cutting out a square hole, and then just gumming the edge of the stamp (I allude to the description of the double-card sheets with eyelet-holes), but should fancy the stamp would not show up at all well, having no background, and in many cases being, perhaps, just over a stamp (on the next sheet) of quite another colour. I think, however, the rims round each sheet a capital idea to keep out dust, and prevent pressure on the stamps themselves (though those not embossed often look the better for it). The great difficulty, to my mind, in getting, say, one issue all in order, is this: you get two or three distinct shades of one colour, and supposing there are shades of other colours, you leave room for them also; perhaps they never turn up, and the vacant space looks unsightly; or, it may be, you do not leave room for them, having no idea they existed; and, to your surprise, they turn up quite unexpectedly, and you have to alter a whole page or more.

What is wanted, is a method of securely holding the stamps to the page, and yet the power to move them from place to place. This I suppose is unattainable.

I have sometimes thought that it would be a good plan to cut strips of pure white paper, about an inch broad, and, say, 3 inches shorter than the width of the album page; then attach the stamps to the bottom of it, in a row, and fix the strips to the page, one under the other, by means of a touch of gum at each end; they could then be easily moved or altered, and any description necessary could be neatly written over each stamp.

I shall esteem it a great favour if you will kindly give me your advice on the matter.

Apologizing for this lengthy and troublesome epistle,

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

E. S.

Homerton, London.

A QUERY RESPECTING A 20 CENTIME OF THE PRESENT FRENCH.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In your September number is the following extract from a Parisian newspaper:—"Paris is now suffering from an inundation of false 10 and 20 centime postage stamps. These stamps are, it appears, obtained from new dies, with the effigy of the republic, which have been stolen. They can with difficulty be recognised; one single detail of engraving, uncompleted at the time of the theft, distinguishes them from the genuine impressions."

This account of these dubious labels is so vague and valueless to collectors, that I have been endeavouring to procure specimens of the impostures themselves, so that I might afford some tangible help to their detection. After considerable trouble and inquiry I have obtained what I think must be the *soi disant* 20 c. I believe this, because it has every appearance of being from the unfinished matrix, and because copies of it are so difficult to find. I shall give the leading discrepancies between it and the undoubtedly genuine stamp, in the hope that my remarks may elicit the required information. These differences are, to use a hackneyed expression, more apparent than real, and it is no easy task to seize upon any salient peculiarity.

As every collector has the acknowledged stamp, I need not describe its details, but will simply state in what points the queried label varies from it.

The shading in the latter, upon the chin and neck of the profile, is not so prominent as in the recognised die and the hair is indistinctly shown, instead of being carried almost unbroken from the crown. Through the lack of shading, and the blurred condition of the ears of wheat, the head has a depressed appearance, although it in reality is the same. In the ordinary die there are several dots running obliquely above the eye, and between that organ and the nasal one; with the exception of a few minute specks under the eye, they are wanting in the copy under surveillance. The spandrels are *very* poor, but this defect is noticeable in a lesser degree upon some of the later-printed stamps. A marked variation is traceable in the beads surrounding the circle. In each there are ninety-eight; but, whereas in the Simon Pure these are of uniform size, and at equal distances apart, in the doubtful label they often run into the white linear circle, and into each other. The bead upon the right-hand side, on a level with the fifth horizontal line from the bottom of the Etruscan border, is prominently out of its position, being farther off the circle than its companions.

The paper used is thin and bluish, but, strange to say (if it is from the stolen die), the perforation is exactly like that upon the known genuine.

Some really reliable particulars concerning the origin of this doubted stamp are much needed.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham.

W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

MORE VARIETIES OF THE PROVISIONAL NATALS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Thinking that some of your readers would like to know some of the varieties of the provisional Natal, we give the following description of those we have seen up to date. As you have, in a former letter, had the 1d. and 3d., we begin with the 6d.

1.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink, below the face of Queen, in thick, short capitals,—mauve.

2.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across

the crown; the P of the postage a capital, the other letters small, and of unequal thickness.

3.—That with POSTAGE printed across the crown, the same as No. 2, but the letters thicker and longer. No. 2 and 3 are lilac.

4.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown, in thick, short capitals,—mauve.

5.—The same as No. 4, but lilac.

6.—That with POSTAGE printed across the crown, with black ink, in thin, long capitals,—mauve.

7.—The same as No. 6, but lilac.

8.—The same as No. 2, but mauve.

Of the 1s., we have seen three varieties, viz.,—

1.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink, below the face of Queen, in thick, short capitals.

2.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown, with thick, short capitals.

3.—That with POSTAGE in a curve, below the face, printed in green ink.

RECEIPT STAMPS.

We have seen two varieties of the 1d. embossed Natal receipt stamp, viz.,—

1.—Yellow, rect., perf., oblong; size $1\frac{13}{16}$ inch by $\frac{15}{16}$ inch.

2.—Orange, rect., perf., oblong; size, $1\frac{7}{16}$ inch, by 1 inch.

Both the above are *obsolete*.

By inserting this in the next number of your valuable magazine, you will oblige

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP F. PAYN.

L. R. GORDON.

H. HOLLIDAY,

VINCENT J. GORDON.

E. CROMPTON.

Pine Town. } Natal.
Pietermaritzburg. }

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have seen two more varieties of the 3d. blue, viz.,—

1.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown; the P of the postage a capital, the other letters small, but of equal thickness.

2.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown, in thin, long capitals.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. H., Braintree.—The New South Wales and South Australian varieties, to which you are kind enough to call our attention, have been already described.

REV. K. D., Bedworth.—The broad-arrow perforation, as a cancelling mark for post cards, is perhaps unusual, but not new. It was noticed and figured on page 42 of our last volume.

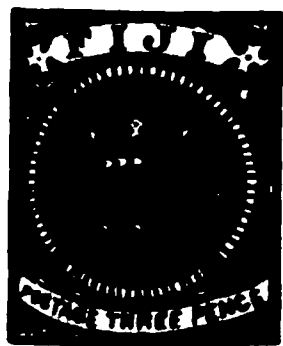
H. P., London.—We should think either Moens or the "V.R." album would suit you, though the step you propose taking in removing your stamps from a blank to a ruled album is, generally speaking, a retrograde one.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe.—Thanks for the information respecting the German stamps. There is not any 3 centime stamp for the French republic in existence at present, but we should think that that value would be found in the forthcoming series.

CHARLES B., Canonbury, London.—Your Fenian essay, with harp in centre, is a spurious one, and therefore of no real value. The other stamp you describe can hardly have been issued by the factious brotherhood, inscribed as it is CORREOS, and 20 c. D'ESCO. You had better send it to us for examination.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The great sensation in philatelic circles during the last month has been the arrival of specimens of the newly-issued Fijian stamps proper. Our New York contemporary was the first to publish the rumour of a forthcoming issue, and we quoted his information in our last; it is, however, the reverse of accurate as to the design and values. The new stamps do *not* bear Thakombau's portrait, and their denominations are *not* 3, 5, and 10 cents. Whether they came into use on the 1st of October, or not, we are not in a position to decide, but already two series have been printed, and the first of them is rare. Both



bear the design here represented, and the values and colours are the same. The difference between them consists in that the second series is surcharged, in black ink, with the denomination in cents. The words "two," "six," or "twelve," are above the crown, and "cents" below the initials; and we may suggest that the decimal equivalents of our English pence have been added to satisfy the American colonists in Fiji. The colours are as follows:—

One penny (2 cents) light blue on white.
 Threepence (6 „) light green „
 Sixpence (12 „) rose „

The frame differs in each value; the circle is beaded in the penny, notched in the threepence, and scalloped in the sixpence; and the highest value is further distinguished from the others by the word FIJI being in white letters on coloured ground, the band on which it appears having also different end ornaments. The central device is simple, but the letters C.R. are very puzzling, and we are quite unable to explain their signification—Qy., *Christopherus Rex*? On the sixpence the crown and initials are enclosed in a hexagon, faintly scratched over the ground of the disk.

The first issue (without surcharge) was perforated, and as only one batch was printed,

very few copies are now to be had. The second series we are describing from specimens cut from the proof sheet, and obligingly communicated to us by a correspondent at Sydney, where the stamps have been designed and printed. These proof impressions are, of course, unperforated; but the issued stamps will be perforated, like their predecessors. The impression is clear; and the surcharge is in ordinary Roman old-style type.

The *Fiji Times* stamps, we learn from our new Birmingham contemporary, were issued by the proprietors of the paper, under the superintendence of the British consul. This information is not so precise as we could wish. We should like to know in what sense, and for what reason, the consul "superintended" the issue. Had he a control over the numbers printed, and was the postal service (conducted, we presume, by means of the mail-steamer from Sydney) initiated or regulated by him? Furthermore, for whose profit were the stamps issued?

Our contemporary suggests that this series is now obsolete, but we can hardly assume this to be the fact until we know how the regular Fijian stamps are to be employed; and there is one important point in connection with this matter to which we think it right to refer—we mean, the possibility of the *Fiji Times* stamps, especially if they are obsolete, being multiplied *ad infinitum* by reprinting. The sale of several thousand copies, even at prices far below their facial value, would be no despicable source of revenue to the proprietors of a journal whose circulation cannot be other than limited, and with reprinting would come all manner of paper varieties and printer's errors.

With a view to restrict the chances of success of such possible reimpressions, we place on record a list of the existing varieties, copied from *The Philatetical Journal*. They are as follows, all black on pink paper, and rouletted on a dotted line.

Paper— <i>quadrillé</i>	1d., 3d., 6d., 1/-.
„ <i>laid</i>	1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1/-.
„ <i>batonné</i>	1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1/-.

VENEZUELA.—The design here represented is that of a stamp which, we are informed by the correspondent from whom we received the sole specimen we possess, came from Venezuela. It is printed in yellow on thin wove paper, and across the centre of the stamp are two rather faint horizontal black and apparently type-printed lines. We observe traces of similar lines just over the upper edge and also along the lower margin, but cannot say whether or not these lines are intended as obliterations; in fact, when we have added that the stamp is unperforated and unwatermarked, we have said all we know about it. We have not had time to ascertain whether "Escuelas" is one of the Venezuelan provinces or states, and we solicit information on this point, as also respecting the name and claims to notoriety of the person represented. The stamp has a genuine look, but our correspondent may have been imposed on, and it is not entitled to a certificate of merit until its authenticity is proved.*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—We annex an engraving of a stamp for this colony which has just made its appearance, and is principally intended, as our correspondent at Perth, W. A., informs us, to be used for postage on intercolonial letters. The design is finely engraved, the bird's plumage being admirably depicted; and it will be observed that the reeds, which seem to be included in the Western Australian arms, form a neat frame to the oval. By-the-way, we should like to know *why* the reeds, as we call them, are thus represented; surely not merely for pictorial effect; do they then indicate a colonial staple? The colour of this elegant addition to our Swan River sets is a kind of

salmon-tinged brown,—a hue, indeed, very difficult to describe accurately. It is surface-printed, and the usual perforations and the crown and CC watermark form the stamp's appurtenances.

SWITZERLAND.—*Maderanerthal*.—About ten miles south of the lake of Lucerne is Amsteg, to the east of which lies one of the most beautiful of the Swiss valleys—the Maderanerthal, which would probably have long since numbered among the lions of the country, but for its comparative inaccessibility, there being no outlets from it, except by glacier passes. Seven years ago the proprietor of the *White Cross* at Amsteg built an hotel, *Zum Schweizen Alpen-club*, with about 50 beds, on a hillock in the valley about 2½ hours up, and about eighteen months back this hotel was enlarged to nearly twice the size. It was then, our informant believes, that the stamp here represented was engraved, ostensibly, as we presume, to prepay postage from the hotel to Amsteg, but in reality, we are inclined to think, as an advertisement. A traveller who would give no more than a halfpenny for carrying a letter a two hours' descent over rocks must have queer notions of liberality, and it is hardly likely small Swiss hotel-keepers would be content with such small remuneration. Perhaps the Rigi-Kaltbad establishment is large enough to make it worth while to establish a kind of private mail service, but we now lean to the belief that such stamps as the Rigi and the Maderanerthal are really issued to serve as an advertisement to the hotel-keepers and a gratification to their guests, who are pleased with the idea of putting them on their letters for England or other parts. However, we deem it our duty to notice the new comer, which is printed in ultramarine on white, and may add that it is not likely to be very common. Our correspondent, who received his specimen on a letter in September, 1870, says, "I am afraid that unexpected misfortunes, as the Franco-Prussian war, have crippled the prospects of the hotel."

The 25 c. envelope of the Swiss republic

* Since the above was in type we have referred to a collection of doubtfuls, forgeries, and *soi-disant* essays, which we have by us, and there we found a precisely similar stamp, excepting the legend, which we received some years ago, through M. Moens, as an essay of Belgium, the authenticity of which he considered more than questionable, and our opinion coincided with his.

is now printed sea-green. We lately met with a postmarked 30 c. envelope, which we keep as a curiosity.

SWEDEN.—We are not yet in possession of the new adhesive stamps for this country, but we are enabled to give an engraving of a new envelope stamp. In shape, it is a transverse oval; three crowns, two above and one below, occupy the centre, and a small transverse oval disk on either side bears a post-horn. The word *SVERIGE* runs round the upper half, and the value in words—*TOLF ÖRE*—fills the lower half. The impression is blue, the crowns and horns are in white relief, and the inscriptions are sunk on a white reticulated ground.

At the last moment before going to press, we received from our Stockholm correspondent a specimen of the new Swedish post card, which turns out to be of the same value, and to bear the same design as the envelope above described; but the blue of the post card is of a much darker shade than that of the envelope. The stamp is impressed on the right upper corner of the card, and bad taste is strikingly shown in printing the border and inscriptions in mauve. The border, which is an important item in a post card, is extremely neat, and the inscriptions (*BREFKORT, &c.*) are as finely engraved as on the Finnish post card. The card is white, and the reverse side is quite plain. The envelope, we may mention, *en passant*, has no device on the flap. Both card and envelope were issued on the 11th January. We are sorry to learn that the report of an entirely new series is unfounded, our correspondent now informs us that only two new values are to appear—6 öre and 1 rikedaler—and they will not be ready for a month or two. Our correspondent offers no explanation of the issue of a post card and an envelope of identical value.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Bogorodsk.*—M. Moens, remedying his omission when he described the envelope for this district, which was figured in our November number, states that its colour is blue, varying from pale to bright.

Charkoff.—Another of the stamps com-

prised in our July list has just come over, and is here represented. It is printed in pale to bright red, and "each specimen is surcharged in black with a portion of the third word, and the whole of the last, of the inscription, in a linear oblong, placed diagonally on stamp;" so says our Birmingham contemporary; but this surcharge must be a postmark, as our correspondent does not speak about it. It will be observed that there is a very striking similarity between this stamp in its general dispositions and the 5 kop. of Bogorodsk (see vol. vii., p. 105); the size, the central oval, the star at the bottom of the oval, the corner numerals, and the waved outer lines, are common to both, and we are half persuaded they must be the work of the same artist.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—Many locals have been recently discovered in the Southern States, and the two here represented have been only known for a comparatively short period. Both are really rare, and the



Rheatown has already been the subject of the forgers' delicate attentions. They carry their history on their face, and we need only say that the Pleasant Shade is printed in light blue, and the Rheatown in red.

BRAZIL.—In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for August last, we quoted from the New York journal a description of a new 300 reis adhesive for this country; the oval containing the portrait in green, the frame in violet.

The Rio correspondent of our Birmingham contemporary denies its existence, but our own correspondent at Rio, has seen it at the post-office, though it is not yet issued to the public. He fully endorses the encomiums passed on its appearance by the *American*

Journal of Philately, but says the outer frame is printed in *orange-yellow*, and not in violet. It is therefore probable that the last-named journal described from a proof. Our correspondent states that the 300 reis stamp, which equals in value 15 cents, will be employed for the postage on letters between Brazil and the States.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* states that a postal treaty between Germany and Brazil has been signed, fixing the rate for letters between the two countries at 15 sgr., or about 720 reis; so that another new stamp will probably be required.

EGYPT.—We have been officially informed of a new emission of stamps for this province, and having been favoured with a complete set, we now proceed to describe them.

The design is very similar to the late series, but the sphinx is to the left of the pyramid, instead of in the centre, as before; Pompey's pillar and Cleopatra's needle are absent, and Arabic and Roman inscriptions take their place; the star and crescent are represented in the spandrels; the numerals of value occupy each corner, and the lower margin has the inscription, POSTE KHEDIVIE EGIZIANE.

The series consists of seven values, an additional one being added in the form of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastre.

5 paras,	light brown.
10 „	mauve
20 „	dull blue
1 piastre,	red
2 „	orange
$2\frac{1}{2}$ „	purple
5 „	light green.

These stamps are lithographed, and their execution is very poor, if we may judge from the blurred specimens before us. In our next number we hope to give an engraving and further particulars.

RUSSIA.—The Russian post card was issued on New Year's Day, and is found to lack one of the chief elements of interest, a monetary value shown by an impressed stamp. What there is on the card is finely engraved, namely, a broad, shaded, ornamental border; the Russian arms on the left; a dotted and inscribed rectangle in the right

upper corner; an inscription, signifying OPEN LETTER, between them, and below, *five* lines for the address, followed by instructions, which are:—

1.—An open letter must be fully prepaid with the proper stamp.

2.—On this side nothing but the address may be written.

In the border, in small type, we find OFFICE FOR THE PREPARATION OF IMPERIAL PAPERS. At the back there is a double-lined border, broken, above, by the words PLACE FOR THE LETTER, and below, by THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT ANSWER FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER. The card is grey, and the inscription, &c., in sepia. The postage is 3 kop. for town letters, and 5 kop. from town to town.

AUSTRIA.—Our old friend, Mr. Max Joseph, sends us a post card for Bohemia. It is exactly like the current Austrian, and has the 2 kr. orange-yellow in the corner; but under the German inscription, KORRESPONDENZ KARTE, comes the Slavonic (?) KORESPONDENCI LISTEK. Our correspondent says that these cards are, "as it appears," already prohibited (*qy.*, withdrawn) by government, but we do not think so, nor see any reason why they should have been called in. The two German papers, *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, and *A. Moschkau's Magazin*, concur in stating that cards are to be issued with duplicate inscriptions for every one of the peoples of the empire. There will be German-Ruthenian, German-Polish, &c.

GERMANY.—Quite a novelty in the way of post cards has been communicated to us by a gentleman connected with a German publishing house at London. It is none other than a post card issued by a German bookseller; and it *does* surprise us that booksellers are allowed to issue their own cards, which go through the post, provided they are prepaid with the proper adhesive stamp.

The one before us is of grey paper, of large size (about 6 in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.); has BUCHER BESTELLZETTEL at the top, followed by the usual lines for the address; and in the right upper corner, a dotted and inscribed square for the stamp. The back is filled with trade announcements. Here is a nut for the ultras to crack. Of course they will accept these cards.

New registration stamps—value 10 and 30 gr.—for the empire have made their appearance. They do not in the least differ from their predecessors, except it be that their colours are somewhat brighter and richer. The inscription, *NORDDEUTSCHES BEZIRK*, is replaced by *DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST*.

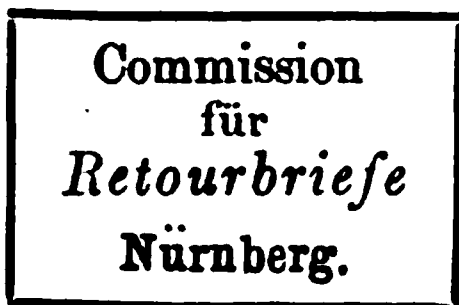
NORWAY.—At the moment of going to press, we have received from an esteemed correspondent a postmarked specimen of a new stamp for this country, an engraving of which we hope to give next month. Meanwhile, we may briefly state that the design of the new comer is as follows: Numeral of value in white circle formed by post-horn, surmounted by a crown; all enclosed in broad oval band, inscribed above, *NORGE*, and value (*tre skilling*) below; each angle is occupied by a winged wheel. Colour, a deep rose. Whether this is the only value of this type, we cannot say.

NEW ZEALAND.—A redistribution of the colours of three of the New Zealand stamps has taken place; the penny exchanges its vermilion for the sober brown of the sixpence, and the twopence takes the colour dropped by the penny, and passes its blue to the sixpence. Thus (to make matters clear) we now have—

One penny	pale brown
Twopence	vermilion
Sixpence	blue

The two former values which we possess are both star watermarked.

BAVARIA.—Two more returned-letter



stamps have recently been issued, one for Nürnberg, the other for Augsburg. They are composed only of four lines of type, are printed in black

on creamy-white paper, and replace the old well-known "arms" stamps.

CEYLON.—We alluded in our last to a forthcoming series with value in *cents*. Preparatory to its issue, says our Birmingham *confrère*, the existing issues have been called in, and among the adhesives found at outlying post-offices are a few of the unattainable 2s. unperforate.

The stamps surcharged "Service," though

prepared, were never used; a case containing them lies in the post-office, and they are now to be destroyed.

SPAIN.—Mr. Ysasi informs us he has heard from Madrid, that the post-office is busy printing off the supply of the new postage stamps, but that they will not be ready for another four months! Senor Manuel Prua de Figueroa writes that they will not be issued for several months.

SIERRA LEONE.—The handsome and solitary stamp which has so long represented this colony in our albums, is, we are informed, to be replaced by a series consisting of five values: 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-. This information comes from an official source.

LUXEMBOURG.—The 4 centimes stamp is now printed of a bright green. This is a change for the better, as it serves to distinguish it from the 1 centime, to which it formerly bore a close resemblance.

CANADA.—We have received by the last mail specimens of a new 6 cents brown of the small size. It is printed of a warm tint, and is as effective as its congeners.

SPANISH COLONIES.—A new series, issued on 1st January, is announced, but details are wanting.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XVII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Moldavia.

It is with the greatest diffidence that I enter on the task of discussing the stamps of Moldavia, and I should have preferred to omit all notice of them but for the recent arrival of documentary evidence, which lifts the history of the early issues, to some extent, out of the shroud of conjecture in which it was previously enveloped; and in presenting the conclusions I have ventured to draw from the facts before me, I beg it may be understood that I do so with all possible reserve, and shall willingly accept the emendations of philatelists who may have made these stamps the objects of special study. For my own part, I had long since "given up" the first Moldavian series, in respect of

which the principal doubts arise, as a nut which I could not crack, and my opinion was confirmed on observing that even Dr. Magnus, whilst giving a careful analysis of all the known types of the stamps of that series, could form but comparatively vague conjectures as to their respective value.* The official documents, however, above referred to, and published by M. Moons, in *Le Timbre-Poste* for 1871, throw light on several points of the first importance, and by their aid, it will, I trust, be possible to determine, with tolerable exactness, the facts connected with the emission of the two series. Let us, however, begin by ascertaining what was the state of our knowledge of the first series before the arrival of these documents, after premising that that series was composed of the four following values:—

27 paras,	black on rose paper.
54 "	blue to bluish-green, on greenish paper.
81 "	" " on pale blue "
108 "	" " on rose tinted "

The designs being here represented, no description of them is necessary, further than to say that the impressions were handstruck in a random manner.

The earliest mention I find of any of these stamps is at p. 76 of the first volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Dr. Viner there refers to the existence of a tradition of an early issue of Moldavians, and in confirmation of it states that two years previously (1861) he saw the three higher values (which he describes) in a Parisian collection. Prior to this, Mount Brown, in the first edition of his list, had noticed a mythical 62 paras, but had omitted it from the succeeding two. In his fourth edition, which appeared not long after Dr. Viner's notice, the 54, 81, and 108 paras were included; and in August, 1863,

the late Mr. Stockall, of Liverpool, for the first time, advertised the three stamps, unused, for 5/6. No attempt was made, at that time, to gain any definite information respecting them, and, indeed; no further notice was taken of them, until, in the second vol. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Dr. Viner, at the close of a sketch of the history of the principalities, remarks of the three higher-value stamps (p. 109), that "whether current, remainders, or reprints, they can yet be procured uncanceled from the post-office of Jassy;" adding, "we must take it for granted that the postal officials there do not forge their own stamps; but being one of the few individuals fortunate enough to possess a genuine postmarked specimen of these emissions, very rare in that state, we must say the discrepancy is so great as totally to preclude the possibility of their having been stamped from the same die. This cannot proceed, as in the instance of the Corrientes, local Melbourne, &c., from the engraver having made several designs on one plate, the stamps of the Danubian principalities then and now being individually and irregularly handstamped."

Here the key-note of scepticism was struck, and with great accuracy, too, as we shall hereafter see; and it is also noticeable that at the time these observations were written, nothing was known of the date of emission. A short time afterwards, however, M. Rondot, in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, argued that the use of postage stamps was introduced into Moldavia in 1854, and professed to have seen letters of 1855 bearing stamps of the first issue. This conjecture was forthwith adopted by all the catalogue-makers, and remained uncontested until recently proved to be erroneous. At that point matters rested, and no fresh researches were made into the history of the stamps until Dr. Magnus took them in hand, and, towards the close of 1867, published, in *Le Timbre-Poste*, the minute and laborious analysis of the various known types, which was reprinted in the 1868 volume of this journal. He therein enumerates no less than five types of each of the three higher values, but plainly states that he does not make a point of guaranteeing their authenticity; and, in concluding his

* [We have reason to think that the learned doctor's opinion now coincides with that which Mr. Taylor expresses.—ED.]

article, he says, "The counterfeits are certainly very numerous, and we fully admit our inability to distinguish them." The learned doctor invited criticism and further details, but all he received was a brief notice from the pen of Mr. Pemberton, in which the latter states that among the five types are some which he had always considered as forgeries, beyond a doubt, but that, in his opinion, that was a matter of no moment; "the acknowledged forgeries being quite as valuable as the *very* dubious originals."

In the autumn of 1868 the 27 paras stamp was discovered, and up to the present time only one copy has, if I am rightly informed, been found. It may, however, be useful to remind my readers, *en passant*, that Mr. Engelhardt Fohl has a large supply of forged specimens, for which a couple of guineas each, are, in his estimation, not too much.

In 1870 Mons. Moens obtained, through a correspondent, information from an official source of the true date of issue of the first series, together with other particulars, to which allusion will hereafter be made in the proper place. Finally he received, and, in the last volume of *Le Timbre-Poste*, published the translation of the government orders and correspondence respecting the first and second series, and to these we now turn for information.

The first impulse towards postal progress was given by a memorial, prepared by Prince Demetrius Cantacuzen, probably by government order, in which the necessity of a reform, not only in the letter rates, but also in the mode of transport was advocated. The exact date of this memorial is not known, but it is referred to in the order of 11th July, 1858, No. 6313 (which, together with all the other documents, are annexed to the present in the form of an appendix, that my readers may study them for themselves), and we may assume that it was presented in the spring of that year. It received the approbation of the Moldavian Administrative Council, and of the Prince Caïm Mekam (the Deputy Grand Vizier), and a new tariff was projected in, or sprung from it, consisting of the following rates:—

For <i>small</i> letters [whatever they might be], and for a distance of 1 to 8 posts (9 to 70 miles),	27 paras.
For small letters for a greater distance,	54 „
For "large" letters,	81 „
For registered letters [letters with a receipt]	108 „

Whatever may have been the elementary postal system which it succeeded, this new tariff can scarcely have been a great advance on its predecessor, and, as we shall see later on, it did not long remain in force, but it sufficed to occasion the issue of the first series of Moldavian stamps.

The first document, in order of date, which refers to these stamps is a letter dated the 1st May, 1858, and addressed by the postmaster to the finance minister, in which he sets forth the necessity of preparing stamps in accordance with the 4th paragraph of the new postal regulations. Whether this was merely a formal request on the part of the postmaster, or was really the consequence of his perception of an oversight, is not a point of much importance; we are more concerned with the second state paper, dated 1st July, 1858, and consisting of a letter from the finance minister, Balche, to a personage described in the Belgian translation as *M. le Secrétaire de l'Atelier du Timbre*, and whom I venture to describe, for want of a better term, as superintendent of the stamp (printing) office. The minister thereby notifies his subordinate of the decision taken by the government to issue stamps of the above four values, and then adds, that "to give it effect the finance department had prepared the necessary seals [or dies], *of the number of four*," which he therewith transmits to him; and he instructs the superintendent, with them, to strike off at once 24,000 stamps, composed as follows:—

6000	of the 27 paras
10,000	„ 54 „
2000	„ 81 „
6000	„ 108 „

This done, the dies were to be returned to the department.

Upon the 11th of July 5984 handstruck stamps of all values were ready, and were on that day forwarded to the post-office by the finance minister, accompanied by the minute No. 6313, advising them and directing the post-office to commence the issue on the 15th

July, which is thus authoritatively fixed as the date of issue. The 5984 stamps were all that the stamp superintendent could prepare between the 1st and 11th July, and the product of these eight or nine days manual labour looks ridiculously small, when compared with the results given by typographic stamp-printing machines in more civilized countries. But between the sounding official formalities and their effect in the shape of an issue of 24,000 postage stamps, there is the same disparity, and half the errors in connection with this first series have arisen from the difficulty of conceiving the possibility of such rough productions having been otherwise than informally struck at random.

However, duly ushered into circulation, as we have seen it really was, the first series became an accomplished fact. In the four days intervening between the last finance-office letter and the actual emission, the stock was, we may assume, distributed among the country offices. Very soon afterwards, however, the new postal tariff was found to work unsatisfactorily. In September a revised system was proposed and adopted, and on the 1st November the initial series was withdrawn, after a currency of just *three months and a half*. On the 26th February, 1859, an inventory was taken of the stock of stamps of this series remaining on hand "in the deceased cashier's safe," and there were returned to the finance minister (with a promise that the account should shortly be handed to him) the following quantities, viz.,—

3,432 stamps of 108 paras			
1,307	"	81	"
5,214	"	54	"
2,325	"	27	"

12,308

Therefore, on deducting these numbers from those of the original supply, as ordered, it results that there were issued out of stock—

3,675 stamps of 27 paras.			
4,756	"	54	"
693	"	81	"
2,568	"	108	"

Total, 11,692

or rather less than half the supply printed for a year's consumption.

MOLDAVIA.—Post and Diligence Office.—No. 975.

1858, 1st May.

Honoured Chief of the Finance Department,

Besides what has been put in force pursuant to the new postal regulations, and the reform of the diligences, it is absolutely necessary that stamps, of graduated prices, should be issued, conformably to the 4th paragraph of the instructions concerning the transport of letters, which says,—“For the payment of letters there shall be introduced stamps of the value of 27 paras, 54 paras, 81 paras, and 108 paras, *treasury currency*. These stamps shall be sold in the places where revenue stamps are kept, and in the post-offices; the said stamps shall be stuck on the letters, pursuant to the tariff, according to the weight and the distance.” This being submitted to the honoured chief of the department, he is requested to arrange for the fabrication and delivery of the stamps in such manner as he may deem best.

(Signed) The Director, V. GRIGORIOU.

Finance Office.—No. 5895.—1858, July 1st.

M. le Secrétaire de l'Atelier du Timbre,

According to the postal and diligence regulations, approved by the Council, and sanctioned by H. E. the Prince Caïmacam, it has been decided that, for the payment of postage, there shall be introduced stamps of the values fixed by the tariffs, after a scale of weight, which are 27, 54, 81, and 108 paras, *treasury currency*. To that effect the department has had prepared the necessary seals, of the number of *four*, which it sends you, requesting you to make for the present a supply of 24,000 stamps, divided as follows:—

6,000 stamps of 27 paras.			
10,000	"	54	"
2,000	"	81	"
6,000	"	108	"

The paper, and other necessary articles for this operation, you will obtain at the post-office, according to the approved specification; you will prepare the prescribed number of stamps in the shortest possible time, and you will deliver them to this department, sending the seals with them.

(Signed) The Minister, BALCHE.

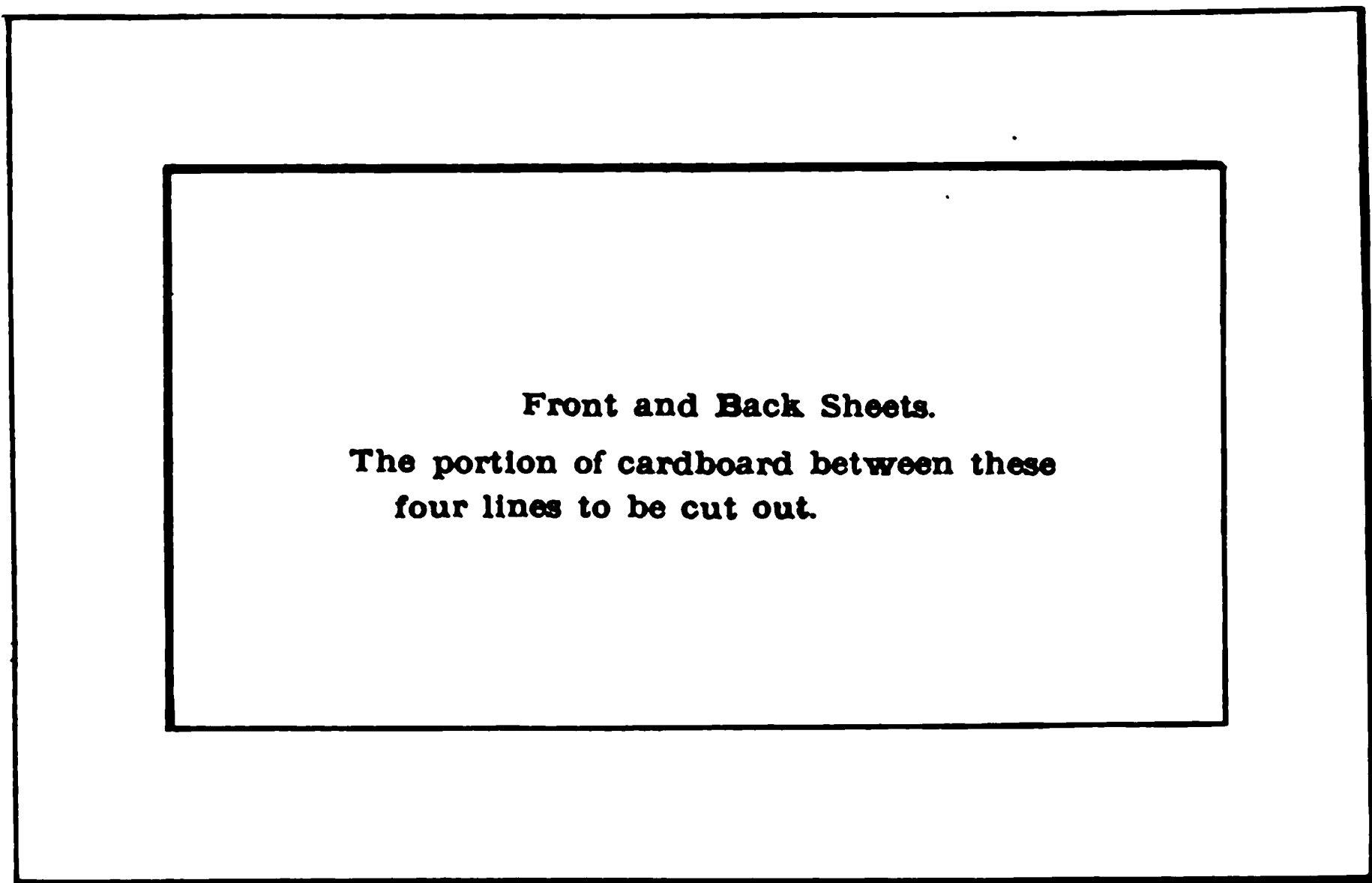
Finance Office.—No. 6313.—1858, July 1st.

To the Postal Administration.

The Secretary of State has communicated (No. 2663) to this department the memorial prepared by Prince Demetrius Cantacuzen, for the accomplishment of the project, which has been found indispensable, relating to the postal and diligence service. The memorial having received the approval of the Administrative Council, and this latter having submitted it to H. E. the Prince Caïmacam, it has been decided, *inter alia*, that stamps of different values shall be issued, to be used by the public for the prepayment of its letters. It has furthermore been decided that the stamps should be printed in the stamp-office, pursuant to the estimate of your administration of the quantity necessary for one year's consumption. According to the report of the Secretary to the

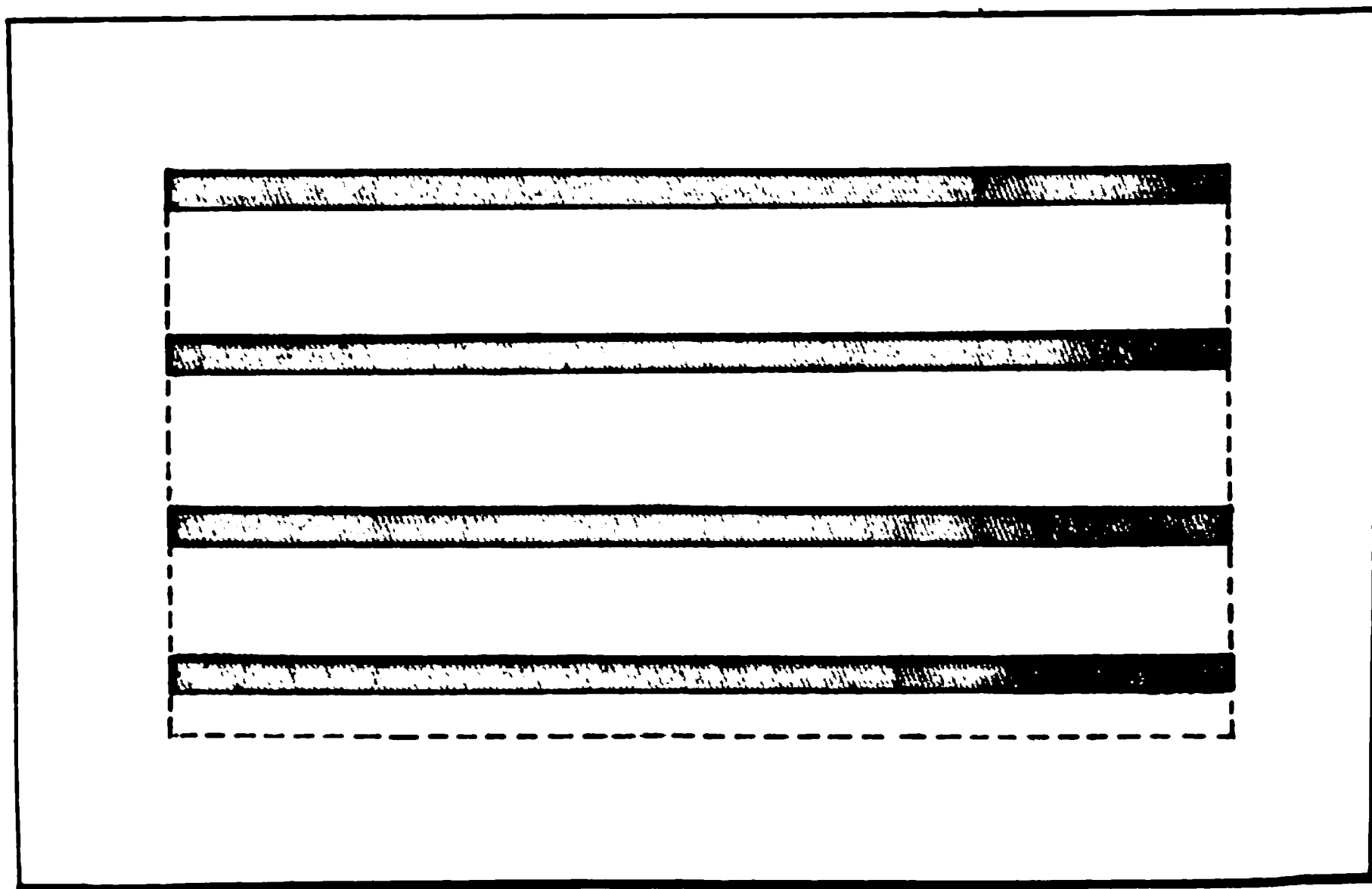
THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

I.



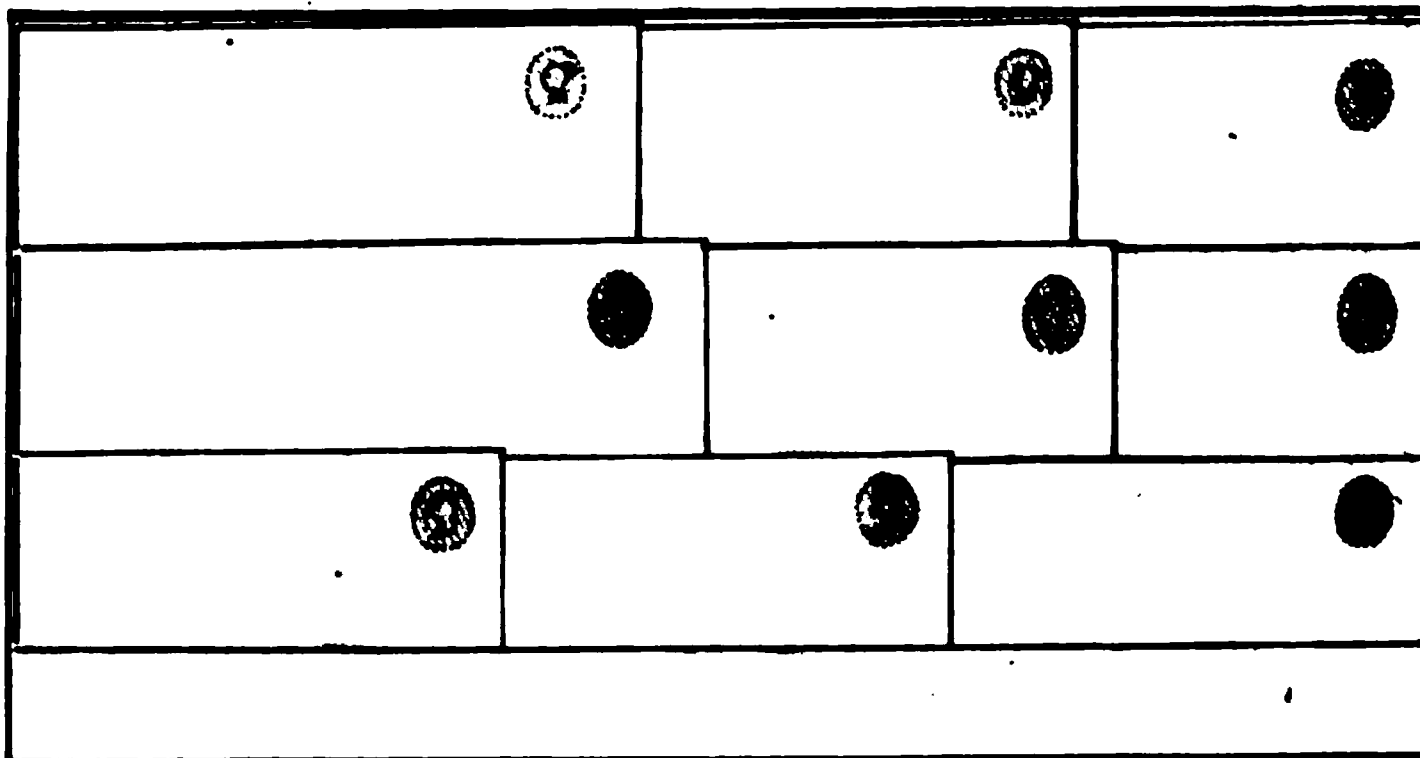
II.

Middle Sheet. Shaded portions to be cut out.



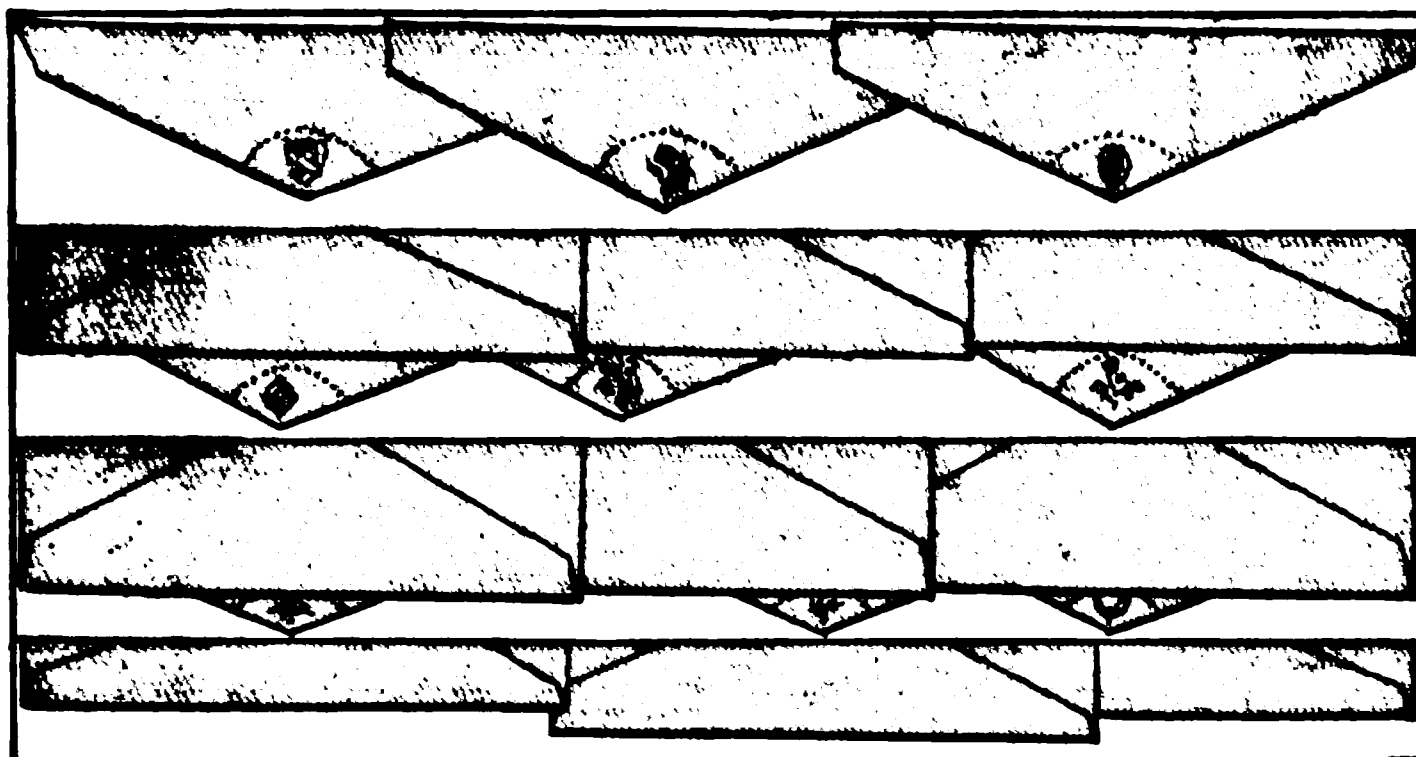
III.

Front view, shewing arrangement of Envelopes.



IV.

Back view.



said office (No. 62), the following stamps have been received, to the number of 5,984, namely,

992	27	para stamps.
992	54	"
480	81	"
3,520	108	"

Total 5,984

This department transmits them to the post-office, that it may arrange for their employment, conformably to the postal regulations, and the memorial above referred to, beginning on the 15th July instant. The department claims a receipt for the stamps immediately.

(Signed) The Minister, BALCHE.

Post and Diligence Administration.—No. 548.
1859, Feb. 26.—*Jassy.*

To the Hon. the Finance Minister.

On opening the safe of the defunct cashier, Nicholas Costin, there were found the following old and un-serviceable stamps, viz.:—

3,432	of the 108 paras
1,307	" 81 "
5,244	" 54 "
2,325	" 27 "

12,308 stamps.

(say, twelve thousand, three hundred, and eight stamps), which are sent to the hon. minister pending the preparation of the account, which will be submitted to him, and of the reception of which the administration solicits an acknowledgment.

The Postmaster, C. TULBURE.

The Controller, J. BOGDAM.

(To be continued).

PLAN FOR MOUNTING ENVELOPES.

(ILLUSTRATED WITH DIAGRAMS.)

IN our impression for June last we inserted an article written by a very enlightened American collector, Mr. Tiffany, and reprinted from our New York contemporary. Towards the end of that article Mr. Tiffany describes his plan for mounting envelopes, and he has since been good enough to prepare for us, at considerable trouble we are sure, a model of a page of his envelopes on a scale of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. square. This we now reproduce in the four annexed diagrams, as we think it is well worthy of being studied, and a mere written description would not fully convey to the mind the exact method employed.

The mount is composed of three sheets of cardboard, or it would, perhaps, be more correct to say of two frames and a sheet between them. The diagram No. 1 represents (on the same scale as the model) the

shape of the back and front sheets; and No. 2, of the middle sheet, which shows four transverse slits. No. 3 gives a front view of the page, whence it will be seen that the rows of envelopes are hung over the successive bars of the middle sheet, and that the bottoms of the envelopes are turned under and kept in their places by the next line. The back view of the sheet further illustrates the arrangement, and at the same time demonstrates the facility it affords for the examination of the flaps. The three sheets are lightly but firmly gummed together by the top and bottom edges; a linen hinge with eyelets at each end runs along the back, and behind all is a fly-sheet of white paper, to preserve the flaps of the envelopes.

This method seems to unite the advantages of extreme neatness, due prominence to the envelopes, and perfect security; besides which the sheets thus arranged would not cause a properly bound book to bulge in the least. It has, it is true, one drawback, which is shared by all the really good methods, viz., that it is expensive to get made, and it would take considerable time to make at home, but the result is well worth the cost or trouble. We do not know how Mr. Tiffany proceeds, but we should think the best plan would be to get two deal boards—one of the size of the rectangle which has to be cut out of the exterior sheets in order to turn them into frames for the middle one, the other with transverse slits in it; it would then only be necessary to lay them on the cards, and cut out accordingly; by this means a considerable number might be prepared in a short space of time. It must be borne in mind that each sheet would be complete in itself, and might be kept in a drawer or portfolio, pending the preparation of a sufficient number to form a volume—if, indeed, it be necessary to bind them.

POSTAL DELAYS IN INDIA.—A good story comes to us from Kashmir, and, we are sorry to say, a true one. One day no letters were distributed at Srinugger, and anxious inquirers at the post-office could obtain no information or redress. At length an official circular came round to all the residents, stating that as an English officer had severely thrashed the postmaster that morning, this functionary was disabled by his wounds from discharging his duties, and no letters would be issued until his recovery.—*Calcutta Englishman.*

FIJI AND THE FIJIANS.

BY THE EDITOR.

NOT many, perhaps, of our readers as yet have become possessors of specimens of the Fijian stamps; they are still but new and little-known arrivals of very unattractive and almost suspiciously plain appearance, but they form, nevertheless, a veritable emission which has been brought out under the auspices of King Thakombau and his Council, and they are certainly a striking sign of the times.

But a few years back the Fiji group was known only as the abode of a cannibal race, and even now the practice of making away with their enemies piecemeal is still in vogue among the interesting Fijians. Better days, however, are dawning upon the islands, and if their inhabitants can only live through the trying ordeal of civilisation, they may yet take rank with their neighbours of Hawaii as polished Polynesians.

The Fiji islands number two hundred in all, of which the majority are inhabited. The principal one, named Ovalau, is but 1780 miles from Sydney, and is surrounded by a stupendous reef, through which an opening only 500 yards wide leads to the bay on whose beach is built the town of Levuka. The island is remarkably beautiful; craggy ridges rise abruptly from the shore to a height of 2000 feet, clothed with dense vegetation, except where bare peaks and precipices appear among the foliage. As for the town itself, it cannot as yet lay much claim to be considered picturesque or attractive; its most remarkable feature being its hotels, in which the ne'er-do-weels of the settlement gamble away their time, week in week out. There are no streets, properly so called, and sanitary reform is a thing as yet undreamt of, the refuse of the place being thrown out on the beach, which is thus rendered at once unsightly and ill-smelling. Among the other islands the principal are Bau, on which the king usually resides, Vitilevu, and Likuri, all capable of high cultivation, and likely to furnish at no distant period a considerable supply of cotton.

The people, taken altogether, are as rough and barbarous a lot as any enthusiastic

philanthropist could wish to try his hand on. Their wants are few; the earth yields sufficient harvest for them without requiring any preliminary tickling with a hoe, and in the waters around fish are always abundant. But this practical immunity from toil brings with it its curse; the white men who go amongst them cannot get them to labour systematically, or for any length of time, and it is to be feared that, like the aborigines of Australia, the race is gradually shrivelling up. The men take but little care of themselves, and are, consequently, a prey to epidemics; whilst the women, in search of fish—a pursuit which is with them a passion—expose themselves at all seasons of the year with the most injurious results. Very frequently for most of the night they are to be found in companies upon the reefs fishing by torchlight, wading, swimming about, and shivering with the cold, and nothing but a sickness which confines them to the house will deter them from their pleasure. The results of these practices are a diminution in the birth rate and an augmentation in the death rate. There are four deaths for every birth. In one district there were ten years ago 800 people; three years ago in the same district the inhabitants could not muster 400. Such startling statistics point the way to certain extinction, if the practices which give rise to them be continued, and the introduction of fire-water is hardly needed to complete the work.

That a people so low in the social scale should possess a king and a constitution must seem at first sight strange, but it finds its explanation in the advent of the white man. There are some three thousand scattered over the islands, and a tenth of their number is congregated at Levuka. The leading men, as a matter of course, have gained an influence over old king Thakombau, and impressed him with the necessity of establishing law and order with their usual accompaniments, taxes. There was a precedent to go by in the establishment of a constitution in the Sandwich Islands; that constitution was accordingly introduced into Fiji some four years ago, and Thakombau crowned king at the same time with much ceremony; but it was never kindly taken to

by the people, and it fell into abeyance. Now it has again been revived, and an executive council of seven formed, five being white settlers and two natives. How it will work remains to be seen, but certainly the Fijian powers that be will have no light work to do, for they will have to govern a people which, it is calculated, are split up into a thousand tribes, each small village of one or two hundred inhabitants usually boasting of two or three, besides which king Thakombau has to count with the whites, who are a formidable and motley set, comprising not a few men who are under a cloud for one reason or another.

The really respectable settlers (merchants and planters) are the greatest support of his authority, and they form the aristocracy of Levuka, the leading men amongst them having each his house of business on the beach and his residence on the hills behind. To know them is accounted an honour, and visitors to the island find in their houses a welcome as hearty and pleasant as it is homely. Behind them, however, come the men who, as our authority for the present description quaintly puts it, have "made themselves conspicuous elsewhere," and who brazen out their claims to a position in Fiji; whilst behind these again comes the crew of lounging adventurers, who always flock to semi-civilized places—men who will not work, and men who would work if they could find employment. Such men as these latter are likely to throw the greatest difficulties in the way of the orderly government of the island. The more reckless among them will probably resist when taxes come to be levied, and a collision and bloodshed may possibly ensue. Besides this, the division of the people into a multitude of tribes destroys the sentiment of nationality, and must be a fruitful source of opposition. It is true that Thakombau has the character of being a shrewd, determined man, and when he appeared before the people of Levuka to publicly announce the formation of the ministry he was attended by a body-guard of fifty-five athletic men, armed with breech-loading rifles; still all his energies will be required if he is to render his authority general and undisputed.

In June last a tribe called the Lavoni, in

the interior of Ovalau, was in open rebellion, and the king brought over 600 men from another island to attack them. His troops were victorious, and marched past Manton's hotel, in Levuka, brandishing a human arm and hand at the end of a spear. Whether these were all the fruits of victory does not appear, but it is certain that the war against the Lavoni is carried on in a very slow way. It must not, however, be supposed that the 600 men above referred to represent the sum total of the king's military forces; he is said to have several thousand men under his orders, and it is alleged that the operations against the Lavoni are only intended to mask his preparations for the more serious contest which is likely to take place between him and an ambitious Tonga chief, named Maafu, who rules some of the windward islands. Maafu is believed to cast a longing eye on the richer islands governed by Thakombau, and the latter—quite a barbarian Moltke in his way—concentrates his forces, in anticipation of a declaration of war from his rival.

Such is the latest political bulletin from Fiji, but since it was written we have seen it suggested that, in consequence of the murder of the devoted Bishop Patteson, the Fiji group ought to be annexed by England, and summarily civilised, a course which would probably result in another "little war" of the New Zealand type.

The source of the native distrust, as unhappily exemplified in the occurrence above referred to, is unquestionably the kidnapping which goes on, not only between the various groups of islands and some of our colonies, but also between these said groups and Fiji itself. The planters, finding the Fijians will not work, import labour, and under this cloak the grossest crimes are committed.* And yet in Fiji there is a Scotch-

* One vessel engaged in what is really a slave traffic called at an island where the natives could not be induced to come on board, but they were anxiously looking out for Bishop Patteson. Thereupon the trader stood out to sea, repainted his vessel so as to make her look like the "Southern Cross," constructed a flag like that carried by the latter vessel, and again stood inshore. Some natives then came on board eagerly, were told that Bishop Patteson had met with an accident at another island and were carried off to Fiji.

Since the present article has been in type, news has been received of the murder of several white men engaged in the labour traffic.

man, who, by the simple use of kindness and persuasion, gets more hands than he wants for his plantation, and natives of other islands come over and apply to be taken on before the season commences.

It will now be interesting to watch the progress of Fiji; if its rulers succeed in levelling up their people they will be doing a great and praiseworthy work, for many are the habits and prejudices that will have to be undermined before that happy result can be obtained; among others, that of the vendetta, which obtains as much here as it ever did in the wilds of Corsica. Not merely the man who commits an outrage on another is held responsible, and pursued by the clansmen of the injured man, but his whole tribe are marked out for vengeance and made to expiate his crimes. If the task of civilising be too difficult for the present governors, some European power will have to step in, either England or another, and, at whatever cost, subject the Fijians to the necessary discipline. Meanwhile it is a noticeable fact, from our special philatelic stand-point, that the Fijian Council has thought fit to issue a series of postage stamps, and the emission of *The Fiji Times* set is equally noteworthy. Respecting the latter, we now know that the English consul "superintended" the emission, but we are not in possession of the circumstances connected with the issue of the government series.

We have been able to give some details of the islands and their inhabitants, but the history of the stamps remains to be written.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

VI.

EAST RIVER POST OFFICE, NEW YORK.

FROM particulars supplied to me by Mr. Casey, I am able to give the following history of this post. It was established by Messrs. Clark and Wilson, either in 1850 or 1851. An office was opened at 23, Avenue D, and letters were received there for the mails, as well as for city delivery. After being in

business for about a year, the original proprietors disposed of their concern to a Mr. Adler, who shortly afterwards removed across the street to number 18, where the post was carried on until some few years since, when the government postal improvements drove Mr. Adler from the field.

At first, letters were simply hand-stamped:—

EAST RIVER
POST OFFICE,
23 AVENUE D

either alone, or in conjunction with PAID in large letters. Sometimes this was struck in red, but more often in black, to judge from the very few known specimens.

Soon after the opening of the post, an adhesive was adopted, and this is of priceless rarity, for I do not believe a single copy is to be found in any collection, either in the States or in Europe. Its very existence seems to have been unknown, for no mention of it has been given in any catalogue or magazine that has appeared from the birth of philately until now.

Mr. Casey has become the fortunate possessor of a fine black proof on cardboard of this scarce local, and this is all (for the present, at any rate) that is known to us of the earliest East River postage-stamp. This proof was obtained from Mr. Clark, who discovered it in going through his old papers.

The design consisted of a ship in full sail, within a circle, surrounded by an outer circle, inscribed EAST RIVER P. O. 23 AVENUE D, and with a six-pointed star at each side. Below the waves is the engraver's name, which I refrain from giving, for fear of lending aid to forgers. The stamp appears to be from a wood-block: its execution is very good.

Mr. Clark is unable to recollect the colour in which it was issued, but Mr. Adler is under the impression that it was black on brown paper.

When Messrs. Clark and Wilson sold their business, Mr. Adler had another die prepared for his own use. He gave the commission to Mr. Julius Bien, who lithographed a design of the following description: steam ship, sailing to left, with EAST RIVER P. O. above,

and abbreviated address below, all within a transverse single-lined oval. Each stamp divided by line of ruling.

Of the stamp issued at 23, Avenue D, we have two distinctly and separately drawn types, and of the later of these two, there are three slight but marked varieties. From Mr. Bien comes the assurance, that the stones from which these early stamps were printed are undoubtedly destroyed, for which we cannot be too thankful.

The only mention I can find of these "23" stamps is in M. Berger-Levrault's French catalogue, and in *Timbres d'Offices Américains* of Moens, wherein the name is presumably collated from Levrault. This shows how little is known concerning them. As the results of a careful examination, I am now able to give an analytical account of each type emitted by Mr. Adler. They are all printed in black on green surfaced paper, varying from a dull to a much brighter tint.

I.—23 AV. D. Figure 3 with flat head. The whole execution comparatively very fine; and upon the side of vessel a distinct trellis-work pattern. All the letters in upper inscription thin and clear. Funnel of steamer very narrow, not perceptibly larger at its opening, and without any line connecting it with the side of ship. The smoke extends to the mizzen-mast, and is shown by undulating lines, forming under R some resemblance to the letter H. The mizzen-mast slants towards the left, and comes below the space between R and P. Sails are done in outline only. The flag has no perceptible staff, except the line uniting it with the stern; it is entirely unshaded, and almost a true oblong rectangle, broken in the lower line. The sea reaches on the right to a level with the end of flag, and on the left to level of the ship's bow. On the right it is shown by six horizontal lines, with an oblique line touching the ends of the four upper, and going through the two lower horizontal ones. There is less space between RIVER and P.O. than between EAST and RIVER. The top of the first R is small, and badly proportioned; second R is better shaped, but the tail comes below the line. This type is a little larger than any of its successors.

II., a.—23. AV. D. Figure 3, with rounded head. The execution much poorer than in I. Side of ship has a solid appearance, but, with a glass, faint traces of the trellis pattern may be discerned. Funnel of ship thick, and with well-defined mouth, smoke from which is composed of dots, extending to and curling upwards beyond O. There is an oblique line running from the left of funnel to the side of ship. The mizzen-mast is straight, and comes to a level with the second R in RIVER. Some of the sails are shaded. Flag more or less solid, curling downwards to a point, and fixed just below the head of staff. The sea extends on the right some distance past the flag and almost to side of oval; it is shown by matted lines with two wavy lines beneath. On the left it is represented by six long wavy lines, and one short one, all at about equal distance from the frame. Upper letters are thick, and the first four of RIVER huddled together. Between RIVER and P. there is more space than between EAST and RIVER. In EAST the S is large and misshaped above, giving T the appearance of being lower than the other letters.

II., b.—23. AV. D. Two dots after 23, otherwise a worn state of a, showing absence of bottom stroke to the T in EAST.

II., c.—23. AV. D. No dot after AV. Evidently b touched up, without much improvement. S and T of EAST uniform.

III.—18 AVE. D. Still poorer in every detail. Keel of ship solid, with seven port-holes on left side of paddle-box, and six on right. Funnel not so thick as in II., but thicker than in I.; mouthpiece scarcely distinguishable. Smoke represented by flaky lines, reaching to below the period after O. A line from funnel to the side of vessel, but specimens are known, in which, through wear of the stone, this line is absent. The mizzen-mast is straight, and comes under the first stroke of R. Some of the sails are shaded, and those on the mizzen-mast seem to be furled. The flag is solid near the staff, and seemingly shaded towards the point, which is an acute one. In most copies, through heavy printing, the entire flag appears solid: it is fixed about half way down the staff. The sea extends, on both sides,

almost to the oval. It is very indistinct; but appears to consist of wavy lines on the left, and matted lines on right. Upper inscription of rather finer letters than in II. First R with small top; second better proportioned; s deeper than the other letters. The space between EAST and RIVER is a little more than between RIVER and P. This type is the smallest of the three.

Forgeries.—I believe that counterfeits exist of the "18" type only. Those I have seen have no line connecting the funnel of the steamer with the side, and are much too clearly drawn.

I know of two varieties of these impostures: in one the paddle-box is very distinct, and shows six wedge-shaped solid pieces. There are ten port-holes on the left side, and five on the right. The flag has a solid square of shading in the upper portion next the staff. No dot after AVE.

In the second imitation, the paddle-box resembles the section of half an orange. On the left are ten port-holes; on the right, six. There is a dot after AVE, and the flag is as in the previously named forgery.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Philatelic Journal. Birmingham: JAMES R. GRANT & Co.

THIS journal, of which the first number lies before us, is brought out by a newly-established firm of stamp dealers, and edited by our old friend, Mr. E. L. Pemberton. His name in connection with it is a guarantee that the new comer will be properly and spiritedly conducted, and of this the opening number gives fair promise. It is well written and well printed, and we cordially welcome it as a *confrère*.

The programme with which it opens, gives, as its *raison d'être*, that it will be published on the 15th of every month, and thus break the void between the old-established magazines. This is not, perhaps, a very powerful reason, for no apology of the kind is really needed for a publication whose excellence will be its best justification; but we must not bear too hard on a programme, which everyone knows is a most difficult thing to write.

Among the other temptations which it offers to philatelists is that of publishing the illustrations of the stamps in their proper colours, following, in this matter, the example of the *American Journal of Philately*, and, especially for very rare and unattainable stamps, these coloured engravings will, no doubt, be found useful, if only the exact tint of the real stamps can be reproduced. Then our "young" friend proposes "to give monthly, under the title of 'Cream of the Magazines,' a MOST IMPORTANT condensation of the contents of ALL the leading stamp papers, so that its subscribers get the benefit of everything published elsewhere." We confess we feel gratified at this adoption of the plan we have for the last three years carried out in our pages, in the articles entitled "Our Contemporaries," for we have always believed that such articles, in which matters of varying importance can be conversationally discussed in a few sentences, are extremely useful, whilst the interchange of criticism acts as a corrective on every journal concerned. We are glad, indeed, to see the system taking root, and to see our Birmingham *confrère* putting forward his "cream" as a valuable article; but, in so doing, it affords to this magazine the means of offering a superior attraction. Its speciality will be the *cream* of the magazines, but, as we, in "Our Contemporaries," shall be able to review *The Philatelic Journal*, as well as all the other leading stamp papers, we can offer *la crème de la crème*.

Now, passing from the programme, we come to the first article, which, as it would not have been difficult to predict, is by the editor, and treats of forgeries, and how to detect them. Mr. Pemberton has taken the highest honours in forgery-detection, and whatever he writes upon the subject is of value. This latest effort of his is written with his usual freshness and *verve*, and the division of forgeries into classes will admit of unusual brevity in the descriptions.

In the "Cream of the Magazines," *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* "comes to the top," but only to be the object of some good-humoured criticism on the absence of any means of ascertaining the dates of the separate numbers when they are bound.

This is a little matter which our publishers will no doubt set right.

We are glad to find that *The Phil. Journal* (we must abbreviate) agrees with us about the German field-post cards. Our Brighton contemporary stands up for them on strictly logical grounds;—they are postal, therefore they ought to be collected. But, says our new *confrère*, "It is a penance to gaze on them to anyone with the *slightest* taste for art;" and though purists may cry out, in that observation lies the gist of the matter. These field-post cards have come in their tens and their twenties—had there been only one or two it wouldn't have mattered much—and they come from one of the foremost of European countries. One might have accepted them from Madagascar, as an interesting evidence of social progress, and carefully noted them; but from a European state one expects something better, something worthy of the country which issues them, and the incongruity so impresses one as to lead to the reflection—if that's all that Germany chooses to offer, then, coming from her, they are not worth collecting.

In the same connection, towards the end of the article, occur the following remarks respecting Dr. Magnus' monograph in *Le Timbre-Poste*:—

Dr. Magnus gives us more of the entire envelope business; taking Bavaria in this number, he exhibits a wonderful amount of care, and a wearisome amount of verbosity, quite inseparable from the subject, of course (the care, not the verbosity); but, really, these interminable lists and dissections of field-post envelopes become, like a dietary of boiled veal, just a little monotonous, and after a few months of either, we should feel inclined to express our intention of being buried shortly, if the thing went on. Far be it from us to contradict any statement of Dr. Magnus, or to ridicule anything he writes in his own earnest and scientific manner, for so long as he writes on STAMPS, so long shall we be delighted to republish, but lists of these ridiculous field-post envelopes are more than we can stand; they are a waste of time to examine, chronicle, or collect.

This is a frank outspoken protest, in which we need hardly say we quite coincide.

Following this article comes "Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations," and then, "The Stamps of La Guaira," by the Rev. R. B. Earée, after which appears "Our Black List." In this list, Mr. Atlee, following the system we are proud to have inaugurated, exposes no less than fifteen dealers

in forged stamps; or rather, we should say, fifteen addresses, for they appear to be shared amongst some five or six dealers. The Hull "merchants" and Mr. Thompson, of Glasgow, whose doings we lately discussed, are among the number. With Mr. Thompson are mentioned four other dealers:—

C. T. ROBINSON, Garnet Hill Street,	} Glasgow.
C. H. HILL, Gordon Street,	
JOHNSON & EWING, Elderslie Place,	
J. BELL GORDON, 181, Crown Street,	

They all send out the same kind of sheets; each of the five sheets is numbered and priced by the same hand, and *the writing on each directed envelope is identical*.

We are glad of such an able colleague as Mr. Atlee, the writer of the "black list," in the work of exposing the sellers of forgeries, and he may at all times count on our assistance.

"Reviews," "*Facetiæ Philatelicæ*," and "Correspondence" conclude the number. The *facetiæ*, entitled "Our Visit to a Bung and Gargle Label Store," is a clever hit at our American friends, though slightly strained. The correspondence consists of a very curious letter from the States, received by the editor, which is either a good satire or a bad attempt to swindle, in connection with pretended discoveries of Confederate locals.

We have now exhausted our allotted space. We give our new *confrère* kindly greeting; we shall be looking out for him about the 15th February, and we have no doubt many of our readers will be on the look out also.

CORRESPONDENCE.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARDS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Some of your readers may be glad to learn that a postal telegraph card is to be issued. It will be about the same size as an ordinary post card, of a dark buff colour, with an olive-green embossed shilling stamp (like that issued in 1847) in the left upper corner, and twenty spaces in which to write the message. On the back are printed directions for use, &c. By keeping a stock of these cards, one can write a telegram at any time after the post-office is closed, and slip it into a pillar-box, which being cleared the first thing in the morning, the telegram will be copied at the post-office and sent off to its destination at once.

Your obediently,
W. J. H.

Forest Hill.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—VALDAI.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the January number of your magazine I saw described and illustrated the Russian local stamp of Valdai, which, being divided by a line into two halves, shows in the left one a crown, and in the right a peak. You say further, in the course of its description, "The label hints at the existence of a mountain; what and where is that mountain?" You are perfectly right in asking that question. The mountains do exist, and bear the same name as the small town of Valdai and its district, whence the above stamp comes. The Valdai mountains, about 200 English miles long, 50 miles wide, situated in the south-eastern part of the "gouvernement," or county, of Novgorod, are the highest elevations in Russia Proper, and it is there that the Volga, Duna, Dnieper, and other rivers, take their source.

The peak on that label may therefore be an intimation of the geographical feature of the country, or probably the crown, together with the peak, may represent the coat of arms of that small town, or rather the district of Valdai.

I shall try to get some more information as to these Russian locals, which, when obtained, I shall be glad to communicate to you, if desirable.

Trusting these remarks may prove of some use,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Liverpool.

JOHN SIEWERT.

[Another correspondent writes us that "the Valdai hills are about 1200 feet in height, and, with the exception of the Ural Mountains, and a few eminences in the Crimea, are almost the only hills in European Russia; they have therefore attracted more attention than they would have received in a less flat country."—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. E. C., Matlock Bank.—Many thanks for information respecting the New Zealand stamps in the new colours.

C. M., Plymouth.—All the large sixpenny New South Wales are from the same dies, or casts, but there are great differences in the execution.

W. H. D., Great Grimsby.—The fact that the vermillion penny Nevis were not from the same die as the old lake-red has been duly noticed.

W. E. H., Grantham.—We are obliged for manuscript copy of your communication to *The Philatelist* (of January), respecting the Trinidad too-late stamps.

H. W., London.—We do not remember having heard that it is the intention of the Indian government to adopt the decimal system, though we should not be surprised if such were the case, but no step in that direction has yet been taken.

J. K. L., Cork, asks us to explain how two Wells Fargo, & Co.'s envelopes, which he found in an Irish country town, could have got there. It is a difficult question, but we should think that some one who had been in California, and had received them, brought them over.

B. H., Braintree.—Your provisional 9d. Victorian was noticed at p. 104 of our last volume; the provisional South Australia 3d. has also been duly catalogued.—The British Guiana, on watermarked paper, are accepted by all collectors.—No argument is needed to prove that the head on the current Sarawak stamp is that of the present Rajah; it is a known fact.

A. W. S.—The very coarsely lithographed 20 c. republic, blue, respecting which you are in doubt, is quite genuine, though but few of this variety are to be found.

We had a portion of a sheet, purchased at a French post-office, of which all the stamps were like yours; and the very first specimen of the lithographed series that we saw was one of this kind, which we received on a letter from Laval.

W. V., Alston, Cumb.—This gentleman has been a subscriber to our magazine from its commencement; and, on remitting our publishers his subscription for the present year, he is kind enough to express his satisfaction at its appearance. He also encloses a letter on the different album systems, which we shall have pleasure in reproducing in our next. Our old friend may rely upon our publishers introducing, as often as possible, illustrations of rarities, such as those of the Californian envelopes in our December number, with which he, and many other of our readers, were pleased.

JAS. N. R., Scarborough.—The translation from the *Opinion Nationale*, which you are good enough to send, is, in effect, the same as we published in our January number.—The design described in our July number cannot really have been used in Lorraine, *malgré* the assertion of the war correspondent to whom you refer.—The black penny South African Republic was noticed on page 80 of our last volume; but we must plead guilty to having omitted to notice the lilac Rigi-Scheideck.—We have handed your Admiralty frank stamp to Mr. Atlee.—Your English 4d, with inverted garter, is also mentioned by another correspondent this month.—Your information that the broad-arrow obliteration on the post cards is used exclusively at St. Martin's-le-Grand, the notch in the side of the card by the Manchester office, and the round hole punched in the centre stamp by that of Bradford, is new and interesting. Your observation that the date-stamp is nearly always struck over the stamp, and is unaccompanied with the second obliterating stamp, with number and bars, is also worthy of note. No doubt the cards are sorted and postmarked apart from the others, only the date-stamps, the more important of the two, being used for the cancellation.

B. del C., Torquay.—We attach no value whatever to your "Lorin" 5 c. stamp, supposed to have been issued by a private office, during the reign of the Commune, even though offered for sale by M. Maury. Private offices did exist, and did a fair stroke of business, but not enough to necessitate stamps. The proprietors would not go to the expense of printing them, whilst they could get on so well without them, especially as they could not tell, from day to day, how soon the insurrection might cease. We saw a good many office-proprietor's advertisements in the French papers, and placards on French walls, during the Commune, and, in none of them, was it ever a question of employing stamps. No offices were opened in the provinces for the sale of such stamps, the government would not have allowed it, and in Paris the postal service was performed by the Communist authorities. In M. Maury's circular, offering private-office labels, among others, there are three chiffré-taxé stamps—as if a regular system of postage had been elaborated by the issuers! Had any stamps really been issued, they would be very rare now, and the facial values also would have been high, for the service they would have been supposed to purchase was a risky one; but the facial value of those offered by Maury varies from 5 to 50 centimes, and the present selling price from 10 to 75 centimes. The stamp you send has, to us, every appearance of being as much got up to deceive collectors as the Hamburg labels, and we hope that, though they may find a place in the albums of Lallier and Maury, all English collectors will have the sense to reject them.

NOTES ON
THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA
AND THE
WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA.
II.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from vol. ix., p. 182.)

It is difficult to make a commencement, or to lay down any plan of arrangement, but it appears to me equally impracticable to describe alphabetically or chronologically; the latter my knowledge will not permit me to do, whilst the former cannot be done completely, owing to fresh information of defunct expresses continually arriving. As these franks are at once divisible into, 1st, handstamped; 2nd, type set, or engraved; 3rd, adhesive; I cannot see a better plan than to follow this simple and natural classification. There are great diversities of opinion as to the postal value of many of the earlier handstamps, so when I have described what are known, I shall throw all the light I can upon their character; meanwhile it is my opinion that they are perfectly collectable, for of the postal nature of the majority there seems no doubt; they were made to answer a sudden want, and their plainness does not militate against them in the least.

The handstamped franks are nearly exclusively confined to the earliest years of San Francisco's existence, and are, consequently, mostly to be found on letter-sheets and plain envelopes, before the introduction of embossed envelopes, and before the government rights as to the transmission of mail matters appear to have been properly settled or understood; but in this latter idea, I may be mistaken. Mr. Lomler, Mrs. Craig, and other friends in California, have given me extracts from the advertisements of their oldest newspapers, which are of extreme value, and which bring before our notice numerous expresses of whose existence hardly any collector was aware, and of whose franks there are no known specimens in many cases. The value of such notes must be apparent to all philatelists, and I trust that collectors possessing information, or specimens unknown to me—and these are

most certain contingencies—will have the kindness to assist me, or to add to my stock of laboriously acquired facts. It is very difficult for me, so far away from the birth-place of these scarce old locals, to elicit information. Persons sending me specimens seem to imagine that no more can be desired, so there are many things I cannot describe in these papers, because I have no means of authenticating them, and fear to "put my foot in it," to use an expressive vulgarism. As instances of what I mean, I may particularize by name *M. P. Freeman's Pony Express*, and *Langton's Nevada Mail and Express Company*, both on 1864 envelopes, and quite unauthenticated, though pretty well known.

There are no exhaustive monographs on these locals to be found in the American magazines, and the only list ever published by anyone but the writer is in *The American Journal of Philately*, copied from the *Curiosity Cabinet* of last August. As a specimen of how an American editor can spell the names of indigenous expresses, this list shows merit. Taking a fair average, not more than twenty per cent. of the names are spelt wrongly (I don't reckon errors of technical description at all in this calculation). I have only to say, that when a man is reading Russian, he knows what to expect, and nothing will surprise him, but when he comes to the American journals on Western Locals, there ought to be no orthographical vagaries: one might stand vermilion with "ll", but not the following American renderings of nineteen names in their own States:—

Atla	should be	Alta.
Dougherty	"	Doherty.
Downie Villa	"	Downieville.
Evarts (twice over)	"	Everts.
Grant & Taggart	"	Grant I. Taggart.
Lotta	"	Latta's.
Los Angeles	"	Los Angeles.
Nicols	"	Nichols.
Oregan	"	Oregon.
Perce's	"	Perces.
Pescadora (twice over)	"	Pescadero.
Pescadoro	"	
Tale	"	Yale.
Thomas	"	Thomes.
Tibbetts	"	Tibbett's.
Tracey	"	Tracy.
S. I. R. (Trumans)	"	S. J. R.
Vancouver's	"	Vancouver.
Wand & Davies	"	Mead & Davis.

From this sample the student may judge that there is not much to be learnt from this list; errors in description of locals, formerly described by me from hearsay, are righteously copied, though without acknowledgment.

The following dates and names of earliest expresses are from information received in many cases from the original proprietors:—

July, 1849.	Todd & Bryan.
Sept., „	Hawley & Co.
Nov., „	Berford & Co.
	Adams & Co.
	Gregory & Co.
	Lount & Co.
	Craik's Express.
May, 1850.	Brown's Express.
	Reynold's Express.
	Todd & Co.
Nov., 1850.	Oram, Rogers, & Co.
	Hunter & Co.
	Bowers & Co.
	Langton & Co.
Oct., 1851.	Newell & Co.
	Reynolds, Todd, & Co.
April, 1852.	Todd's Express.

The following expresses are advertised in papers of the annexed dates, and I am indebted to Mr. Lomler for the information:—

Winter & Latimer,	Jan., 1850.
Angle & Co.,	May, „
West & Co.,	Aug., „
Dodge & Co.,	Nov., „
Mumby & Co.,	May, 1851.
Rhodes & Lusk,	April, 1852.
Anthony & Co.,	March, 1853.
W. F. Here,	End, 1853.
J. W. Hoag,	Oct., 1855.

In addition to the above, I have to add the following, which appear handstamped on plain envelopes:—

Palmer & Co.
Blake's Express.
Rumrill & Co.
Wine's Express.

I have only seen the first.

After this date printed franks became more numerous, and will be described in their due order.

In that very valuable work, *The Annals of San Francisco*, page 200, we find in the chronicle for 1848 the following item:

APRIL 1st.—The "California Star Express" left San Francisco, to proceed overland to Independence, Mo. The passage was guaranteed to be accomplished in sixty days. Fifty cents was charged as the postage on single letters.

The title of this Express appears to have

been copied from a paper of the same name. It is not improbable that the Express itself was established by the proprietors of the journal. The men who possessed enterprise enough to start a paper in the then insignificant Mexican town, are likely also to have perceived the necessity of initiating some means of communication with the States. Their newspaper, *The California Star*, was almost the earliest published in California; the first number was issued January 7, 1847, and it appeared every Saturday. It was published by Mr. Samuel Brannan, and edited by Dr. E. P. Jones. The very first newspaper published in English, or indeed in any other language, in the State, was *The Californian*, also a weekly issue, which was started August 15, 1846, and published at Monterey, by Messrs. Colton and Semple; Commodore Stockton, however, was its originator. As a specimen of the difficulties experienced in getting out their paper, the proprietors give the following explanatory and apologetic note for its rude appearance on one occasion, which we copy literally.

OUR ALPHABET.—Our type is a spanish font, picked up here in a cloister, and has no VV's in it, as there is none in the spanish alphabet. I have sent to the sandvich Islands for this letter; in the meantime vve must use tvo V's. Our paper at present is that used for vvrapping segars; in due time vve vwill have something better: our object is to establise a press in California, and this vve shall in all probability be able to accomplish. The absence of my partner for the last three months and my buties as Alcadd here have dedrived our little paper of some of those attentions vvhich I hope it vwill hereafter receive.

VVALTER COLTON.

This is rather a digression, but will show our readers the extreme primitiveness of everything in those early days of San Francisco. In the latter part of June, 1847, the population of the city was but 459; and, until the 30th of January, 1847, the town held its old local Spanish name of Yerba Buena, signifying *mint*, great quantities of which herb grew about the spot. "The name of so insignificant an herb for the rising city being, perhaps, judged not sufficiently imposing, it was changed into San Francisco, by an ordinance of the three alcaldes of the place; and under this last designation it has been alone known to the

world at large." To revert to the *California Star Express*: it is the opinion of my San Francisco friends that there is some sort of a mistake about it, and, at all events, as it ran before California was formally ceded to the States, it was on a different footing to the other express companies, and, *most probably*, had no frank of its own. Perhaps some of our Californian readers can find a trace of this old express in the file of the two earliest papers.

It is difficult for Europeans to properly understand the enterprise of such men as Mr. Samuel Brannan, Commodore Stockton, and others, in establishing a press in California, or of Mr. Todd in commencing the Express business, but the civilising effects, and the wondrous changes that they have assisted to bring about in that magnificent territory, should be matters of history.

In April, 1847, we read, "Semi-monthly mails established between San Diego and intermediate places."

And now we come to the time when San Francisco began to attract attention in the States, and we find the following intelligence in the above-quoted work.

On February 28th, 1849, the steamship *California*, being the first of the line of mail steamers along the coast, arrived. March 31st, Col. Geary had been appointed postmaster for San Francisco, with powers to create post-offices, and appoint postmasters throughout the territory; also to establish mail routes, and make contracts for carrying the mails. He brought with him *the first regular mail from the Atlantic States that was opened in San Francisco*.

That is all the information we can glean from *The Annals* as to postal matters, and as altogether nearly forty thousand immigrants landed in San Francisco during 1849, it will not cause surprise that many expresses sprung into existence when the public arrangements for the conveyance of letters, &c., were so inadequate. These we now proceed to discuss.

FIRST PART. HANDSTAMPED FRANKS, ON PLAIN ENVELOPES, WITHOUT PAYING GOVERNMENT TAX. COLLECTABLE AT OPTION.

We must commence, we suppose, with the earliest express in operation after California was formally recognised as part of the Union, and, therefore, ignore the *California Star Express* in this connection.

TODD & BRYAN'S EXPRESS.—In July, 1849, Messrs. A. H. Todd and Benjamin Bryan conceived the idea of starting an express between San Francisco and the Southern mines, for the purpose of taking all letters from the post-office (the only office in California being Col. Geary's, in San Francisco), and delivering them to the miners, at the then so-called moderate rate of 8, 12, or even 16 dollars each; and the happy recipients of these favours were so pleased to have news from home, that they often insisted on the express agent taking a lump of gold, worth much more, in payment. Often one of the proprietors had (after a hard day's riding, swimming rivers, and bringing the mail in at the peril of his life) to be called on, by diggers who could not write, to answer their letters, receiving in return 50 dollars for the service! Such sums appear to us almost fabulous; but dip into *The Annals*, and this remuneration is nothing; on page 367 we read that an egg was worth 1 dollar, and common iron tacks, of the smallest size, sold for their weight in gold; and, for a long period, were in request at from five to ten dollars *an ounce*! Everything that was really useful and needed in those earlier days commanded the most astonishing prices; the supply of necessaries was limited, and the demand great, while money was suddenly plentiful.

From carrying letters, the business of Todd and Bryan soon became a large one, and extended itself to transporting treasure, packages, &c., and many thousands of dollars were weekly sent to all parts of the world. Mr. Todd is now called the "pioneer expressman of California," a name which he undoubtedly deserves. This paper would be quite incomplete without an acknowledgment of the extreme courtesy with which he has given every information in his power, information here embodied which few persons were so competent to supply, and which few would have taken the trouble to impart. As the name of Mr. Todd is mixed up in the constitution of four distinct expresses, we had better take the other companies, into which Todd's name afterwards extended, and go through all their ramifications.

In September, 1849, two gentlemen—

named, respectively, Hawley and Spear—seeing what a good business Todd & Bryan were doing, followed suit, from Sacramento, calling themselves Hawley & Co.'s express. Shortly afterwards, other companies sprang rapidly into existence; the population was so increasing, and communication was so undeveloped, that we must not wonder at the quantity of names, all of which represented flourishing expresses.

The expresses through which the name of Mr. Todd runs, and with which it is connected, are the following:—

July, 1849, Todd & Bryan.
 May, 1850, Todd & Co.
 Brown's Express.
 Reynold's Express.
 Oct. 3, 1851, Newell & Co.
 Reynolds, Todd, & Co.
 April 22, 1852, Todd's Express.

MAY, 1850, TODD & CO.—About this time Messrs. A. H. Todd & B. Bryan dissolved partnership, and A. H. Todd entered into partnership with L. W. Newell and E. W. Colt, and carried all express matters under the name above. The only handstamp we have seen is a large oval, simply inscribed FORWARDED BY TODD & CO.'S EXPRESS, STOCKTON.

MAY, 1850, BROWN'S EXPRESS.—From a paper of this date we extract the following advertisement:—

BROWN'S EXPRESS.—This Express will hereafter connect with Todd & Co., through them with Adams & Co. to the States and Europe.

Persons wishing to send letters or packages to any mines on the Mokelumne or Calaveras rivers, and Murphy's, Angel's, and Carson's diggings, can send daily through this Express, by leaving their letters at the office of Todd & Co., Stockton and San Francisco.

MAY, 1850, REYNOLDS & CO.'S EXPRESS.—The proprietors of this express were Angerine Reynolds, Aug. S. Reynolds, and J. D. P. Wilkins. They started about this date, and ran from San Francisco to Stockton, Sonora, and the southern mines. The only handstamp we have seen is one similar to Todd & Co.'s, but a double oval, with name of town in centre. They ran in connection with Todd & Co., until a notice, dated June 14, 1851, tells us that their connection with that company having ceased, they had made arrangements to run a daily express through from San Francisco to Stockton, &c., on their own account.

OCT. 3, 1851. NEWELL & CO.—From a paper of this date we hear of the dissolution of the firm of Todd & Co.; this is the advertisement:—

Stockton, Southern Mines and Oregon.

NEWELL & CO.'S EXPRESS.

The undersigned, formerly partners in the firm of Todd & Co., having purchased the interest of Mr. A. H. Todd in the said firm, will continue the Express business under the name and style of NEWELL & CO.

We shall continue to draw, in Stockton and Sonora, Bills of Exchange upon Adams & Co., payable in all the principal cities of the Union.

Also, to receipt through to the States for packages by their express. No other Firm in Stockton or the Southern Mines being authorized to do the same.

Our Express between San Francisco, Stockton, Oregon, and the Southern Mines, will be continued as usual.

L. W. NEWELL,
E. W. COLT.

NEWELL & Co. are authorized to draw Bills of Exchange on any of our houses in the Atlantic States.

ADAMS & CO.

We have not seen any frank of this express company. Mr. A. H. Todd now joined the firm of Reynolds & Co., mentioned above, and in a paper of the above date is a notice of the new firm, viz.:—

OCT. 3, 1851, REYNOLDS, TODD, & CO.—Their advertisement says that "Mr. A. H. Todd, formerly the senior partner in the firm of Todd & Co., is now one of the partners in the firm of Reynolds, Todd, & Co." They ran a daily express from San Francisco to Stockton, Sonora, Mokelumne Hill, and all parts of the southern mines. About this time they purchased out Brown's Express. Their handstamp is a large oval, of the usual type, with name of issuing town in the lower edge.

APRIL 22, 1852, TODD'S EXPRESS.—The following was their first advertisement:—

TODD'S EXPRESS.—C. A. TODD, Proprietor, successor to Reynolds, Todd & Co.—On and after this date, C. A. TODD will run a Daily Express to Stockton, Sonora, Columbia, Mariposa, Agua Frio, Quartzburg, Double Springs, Mokelumne Hill, and all parts of the Southern Mines.

Gold Dust, Specie, valuable Packages, &c., &c., received and forwarded. Notes, Accounts, &c., collected, and all business pertaining to an Express promptly attended to.

A Stage will leave the office on the Levee at Stockton daily, for each of the above-named places.

C. A. Todd having purchased the business together with the good-will of the late firm of Reynolds, Todd & Co., would respectfully solicit a continuance of the patronage heretofore so liberally bestowed upon the old firm, and trusts by strict attention to his business to merit the same.

Office in San Francisco with Joseph W. Gregory, corner of Merchant and Montgomery sts.
C. A. TODD.

San Francisco, April 22, 1852.

It will be observed that the original partners—the two Reynolds, J. D. P. Wilkins, and A. H. Todd—were all bought out by C. A. Todd, of this last *Todd's Express*. There are two handstamps, one an upright octagon, with four short angles, lettered FROM TODD'S EXPRESS OFFICE, SONORA; the other is the usual transverse oval, FORWARDED BY TODD'S EXPRESS, with name of

issuing town or office; PAID on these and on all the others is invariably struck away from the handstamp. This express had an independent existence until September 1st, 1853, when it was bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co., and after then we hear no more of Todd in connection with express companies. We annex the public notice, to render the matter complete.

EXPRESS NOTICE.—The undersigned, proprietor of TODD'S EXPRESS, has sold out his entire interest therein, together with the good-will of the same, to WELLS, FARGO & CO., and commend them to the favour and patronage of his friends and the public generally.

C. A. TODD.

San Francisco, Sept. 1st, 1853.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

SOUTHERN EXPRESS.

Mr. TODD having disposed of his interest in the SOUTHERN EXPRESS to us, we shall run a DAILY EXPRESS to and from SAN FRANCISCO, STOCKTON, SONORA, COLUMBIA, MURPHEY'S FLAT,

and MOKELUMNE HILL.

Connecting with a Daily Express at Stockton, for Mt. OPHIR and MARIPOSA.

A special messenger is sent from San Francisco to Columbia.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.,
114, Montgomery st.

Thus out of the seven expresses mentioned, six of them were gradually absorbed, till at last their business fell into the hands of Wells, Fargo, & Co.; the only one which appears to have had a separate existence being *Newell & Co.'s*, but we have no further notes to offer respecting them.

(To be continued).

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The October number contains an analysis of Dr. Magnus' arguments respecting certain stamps of the Philippines, and in the succeeding number appears the learned doctor's reply. We have not yet had time to go into the matter ourselves, but we hope shortly to lay before our readers a *resumé* of the disputants' views; more especially, as in a former volume of this magazine we gave a literal translation of Dr. Magnus' original paper on the stamps in question.

In the October number there also appears a readable article on the Luxembourg stamps, and an instalment of Dr. Magnus' monograph on envelope stamps. On glancing over this latter, we are gratified to observe that the doctor's verdict on the field-post envelopes with lithographed sketches on the front, is, that they are but of very mediocre interest, and should be placed in the same

category with the illustrated envelopes of this country; by which he no doubt intends to allude to the fantastic Ocean Penny Postage vignettes. In the December number Dr. Magnus states that the value on the Bavarian envelope has never been written otherwise than *drey*,—therein confirming the general belief. He also notices the handsome Bavarian envelope essays which appeared some six years ago, and were thought to possess a certain value. The doctor's impression respecting them is, that though they probably were submitted to the Bavarian administration, they were unquestionably struck off in quantities for speculative purposes after their rejection.

Our friend, Senor M. P. de Figueroa, sends for the December number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, a copy of a Spanish postal circular of the 13th August, 1857, in which the distinctive features of a forged 4 cuartos stamp then in circulation in the province of Almeida, are given with a minuteness worthy of our own writers on forgeries; and Senor de Figueroa states that that circular is but one among many similar ones. What a strange mania Spaniards seem to have for forging stamps! What invaluable assistants some of the more skilful would doubtless prove to the enterprising Messrs. Spiro! and what price might they not obtain for their services from some of the Glasgow counterfeit sellers, whose names we recently gave! It is, in sober truth, surprising that the Spanish government did not long ago perceive that the best way to stop forging would be to issue stamps so finely engraved as not to be imitated, except at great cost. The present administration, however, appears to have at last appreciated this fact.

The possessor of one of the finest collections in the world,—Baron Arthur de Rothschild,—contributes to the January number of our Belgian contemporary an article, detailing a scheme submitted to our government by a Mr. Samuel Forrester, in 1839, for the issue of postage stamps. It is a curious and a cumbrous scheme, hardly, however, worth the trouble of disinterring from among the piles of similar documents which found their way to the treasury or the post-office when postal reform was first

agitated. Three engravings of proposed impressed stamps illustrate M. de Rothschild's article, and he is the possessor of the three unique originals.

The Philatelist.—In the December number, the most remarkable item is a paper on Unused Confederate Locals, in which due warning is given to collectors of the unscrupulous mode in which American dealers—even those who lay claim to respectability—deal with the supplies of unused old locals which they hunt out or reprint. They are, in the first instance, represented as almost unique, and sold at abnormally high prices, and are then put on the market by hundreds. Certainly, Brother Jonathan is very sharp, but his fine appreciation of the excellence of thorough honesty and truthfulness, like his acquaintance with the English grammar, is in an embryonic state.

The January number contains nothing of note, except the always valuable Spud Paper, and an article on Philatelic Literature, in the course of which Mr. Overy Taylor's labour in the fifth edition of Gray's catalogue is very warmly and generously acknowledged. We believe that edition will soon be quite out of print, and a sixth will certainly be called for.

In the last number we are glad to observe that space is accorded to an article similar in purport to the one we are now writing, under the heading of "The Philatelic Press." The author, who is known for his catholic proclivities in reference to stamps, appears to have a leaning in favour of the revenue labels of the United States; we venture to hope, however, without disrespect to him, that collectors will double clasp their albums against the whole tribe.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine has at length dropped out of the ranks of the philatelic press, leaving unfinished a paper commenced in its November number, entitled "Philately Considered as a Moral Agent." Henceforth it will treat exclusively of coins.

The American Journal of Philately commenced its fifth volume in January. About half the January number (six pages) is composed of reprints, and the remaining contents are totally uninteresting. Half of

the February number is also filled with reprints; including among them a paper, "On the Origin and Progress of Postage Stamps," contributed by Mr. Edwin Hill, to *The Journal of Applied Science*, in which reference is made to many facts with which collectors are acquainted, and to some which are new. We shall extract the plums from this article as soon as we can find a place for them. Of the remaining half of the February number, three pages are occupied with a list of local stamps; so that the residuum of readable matter is not enough to surfeit the most easily satisfied subscriber. The two most striking features about these two numbers are (1) the excellence of the coloured engravings, and (2) the absence of the contributions of the "able English philatelic writers," whose services have, it is said, been engaged.

The Philatelic Journal.—If this journal comes last in order of notice, it is certainly not because it is the least important, but because it is the last to reach us, the publication having been retarded by the non-arrival of certain engravings. The second number, taken altogether, is an improvement on the first, and is exceedingly readable. We cannot give it all the attention it deserves, but will pass rapidly over its more prominent features.

The article that interests us the most, is that of which the Rev. R. B. Earée is the author, entitled "British Packet Agencies." Though not written primarily for the purpose of affording an answer to our inquiry as to the part played by the British consul in the Fijian postal arrangements, it yet gives us the information we sought, namely, that our consul is also the packet agent for our post-office. The article displays such a thorough acquaintance with the subject of which it treats, and is so well written, that, in defiance of the old warning with respect to him "who takes what isn't his'n," we meditate transferring it bodily to the pages of our next number. Mr. Atlee's monograph on the Hawaiian stamps promises to prove of considerable value to collectors; the initial paper is well worth studying. The same writer, in "Our Black List," quote an amusing letter from one of the exposé

forgery sellers, who (using the commercial "we") says, "As to there being any forged stamps on our sheets (*though wishing rather to be called rogues than fools*), we must assert our ignorance of their presence." He further says in a postscript—generally the most important part of a letter—"We shall be most happy to give up the sale of forged stamps in packets, or in any other way, and also in urging others to do likewise." The zeal of this new convert is very remarkable; and the spectacle of a penitent seller of forgeries going about among his still dishonest brethren, and exhorting them to turn from the evil of their ways, would be decidedly edifying.

On the "Cream of the Magazines" we refrain from commenting, simply because it either treats (and treats in very courteous terms) of the contents of our journal, or it discusses those of other journals; to which journals we also refer in another part of the present number.

Of the remaining contents, the "Notes on the first issue of Moldavia" are contributed by a philatelist of standing, who, under the *nom de plume* of "A Parisian Collector," has made valuable additions to the general stock of knowledge on every subject on which he has treated. This paper has reference to the documentary evidence published by Mr. Overy Taylor in our last number, with whose conclusions he agrees.

In the article on "Novelties," the editor notices a perforated 1 c. Confederate, which he gives as being undoubtedly genuine, and he also refers to the existence of a few "genuine used perforated copies of the 10 c. blue (Jeff. Davis)." We confess, however, that we have grave doubts respecting their authenticity. A perforating machine, had there been one at Richmond, would have been used on a large number of stamps, and its presence at Richmond would have long since been witnessed to by Mr. St. George Offutt and others. We should require something more than the mere assertion, even of so high an authority as Mr. Pemberton, to induce us to accept perforated Confederate stamps, seven years after the fall of the Confederacy. Nothing short of the direct testimony of responsible officials,

would suffice to habilitate such stamps with a genuine character.

Under the heading "Bogus Novelties," our contemporary refers, *inter alia*, to the reproduction of the Transvaal stamps in fancy colours, though from the real stones. These valueless impressions are obliterated with a blue or black mark, composed of concentric rings, in imitation of the real postmark. The colours are:—

One penny,	blue,	imperf.
Threepence,	blue, rose, yellow,	"
One shilling,	blue on bluish,	"

and besides these impossible colours, the full current series is to be had with like cancellation. The original lithographic stones have remained in Germany, where the first supply of the real stamps was struck off, and have, either with or without official sanction, thus been used for fraudulent purposes. The person by whom the spurious impressions are offered is named E. Enterlein, and he hails from Mecklenburg.

Reviews, Forged Stamps, Correspondence, and Answers to Correspondents, conclude the February number.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We think we cannot do better than commence our usual chronicle this month by reproducing the following important piece of telegraphic intelligence, culled from the *Standard* of the 22nd ult.

BERLIN, FEB. 21, 2.35 P.M.

Prince Bismarck is about to convoke at Berlin an International Postal Congress, with the view of establishing a general system of postal arrangements, which will apply to Europe, Asiatic Turkey, and Russia, Egypt, Algiers, Madeira, the United States, and Canada. For a single letter it is proposed that the postage shall be 20 centimes.

All the details of the project, which have been, if not initiated, supported by the German chancellor, are given on p. 135 of our last volume, to which we refer our reader. The hard-headed, practical German statesman will probably secure the acceptance of the scheme, much, we feel sure, to the benefit of every country concerned; and if we give prominence to the meeting of the Postal Congress, it is because the adoption of Prince

<i>From</i> _____ _____ _____	|	<i>To</i> _____ _____ _____
One word only should be written in each space, from left to right across the card.		

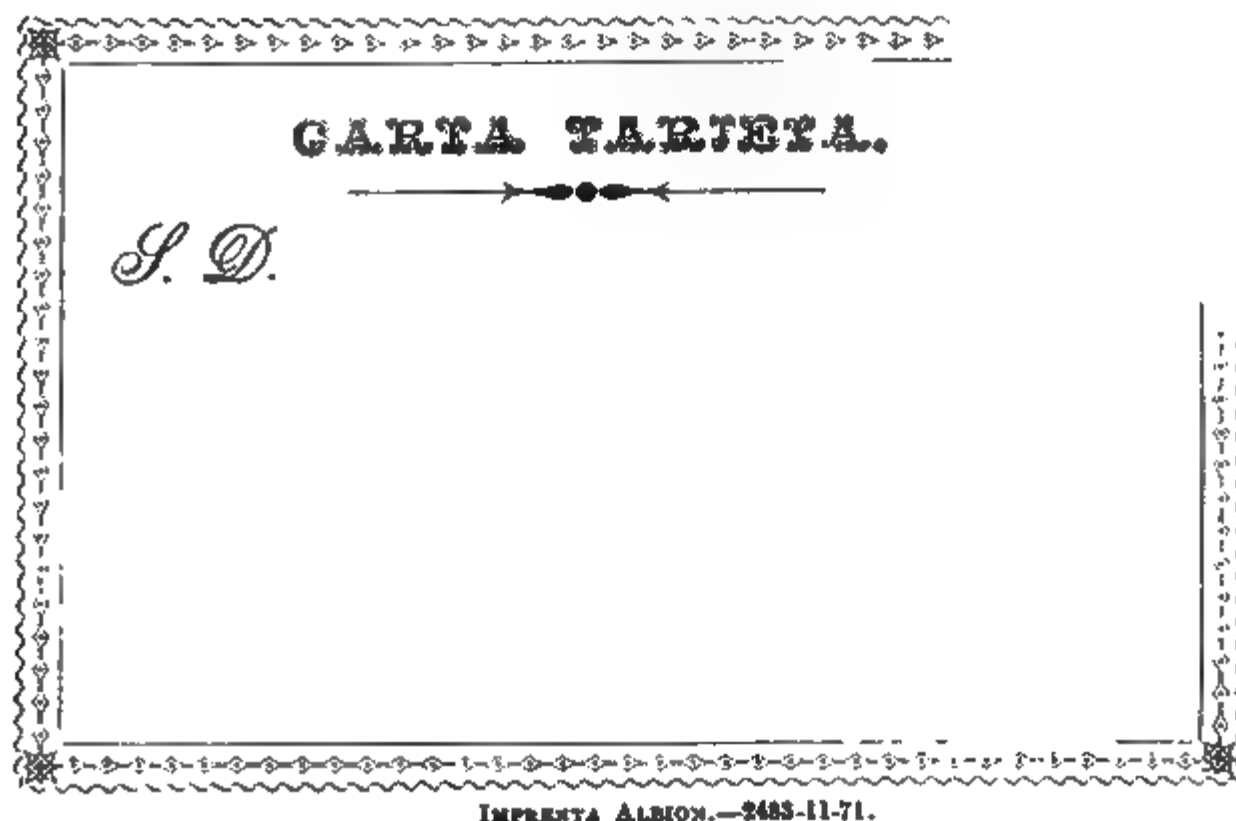
If the sender wishes other than the usual means to be employed in }
 the delivery of the Message the means must be described here. } By

Bismarck's suggestion is almost certain to lead to the emission by every European state of a special international postage stamp. The proposal to establish an international rate, coupled with other recent innovations, some of which will be found noticed lower down, conclusively prove that postal progress is yet far from its zenith.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We have never been much in favour of collecting telegraph stamps, considering as we do that most philatelists have enough to do to get up a collection of orthodox postals, yet we cannot deny that a certain amount of interest is being shown in them, and our Brighton contemporary urges their collection on the ground that telegrams are express letters conveyed by the state post-office. This is a view which has something to commend it, and we invite the opinions of our readers on the question, whether telegraph labels should be collected or not; in the affirmative case, we shall feel bound to notice them regularly. In this present number, however, we deem it best to confine our attention to the English telegraph card just issued, and represented

above, which has perhaps a special claim to notice from the fact that it bears the impressed shilling stamp employed for our envelopes. It is struck in green, and the design comes out unusually well, as the card is a thick one. This card has both a postal and a telegraphic character. It is intended for persons who cannot, or do not desire to, send their messages direct to the telegraph-office, and who are content to throw it into a pillar or wall-box, or ordinary letter-box, whence it is carried free of charge to the telegraph-office at the next ensuing clearance.

We do not anticipate that these cards will be much used, except in very out-of-the-way districts, as most people who wish to make use of the wires at all will not be satisfied to defer the forwarding of their telegrams several hours by throwing them into a letter-box. Should, however, the plan work, still the shilling card is not likely to have a lengthened currency, as the post-office has avowed its intention of reducing the telegram rate to sixpence as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.



IMPRESA ALBION.—2483-11-71.

CHILE.—Our Chilean correspondent kindly sends us, by the last mail from Valparaiso, information of two newly-issued post cards for this republic. He says:—

I have the pleasure to enclose specimens of our new post cards, which appeared in December last. They are of two values—2 and 5 centavos. The first is used for messages by land routes, and the other when sent by steamer. This issue is only provisional, as it has been found too expensive to have the cards manufactured here. The new ones are to be made in the United States (probably by the American Bank Note Company) after the model of the English post card. It is not stated what colour the card is to be, but the values will be 2 c. black and 5 c. red.

The above illustration faithfully represents the design of these new arrivals, which are type printed in black ink on white cards, having, respectively, the current 2 c. black and 5 c. red adhesives stuck in the right hand upper corner.

CEYLON.—The new series, of which we had the good fortune to be the first to receive tidings, has now made its appearance. The stamps are real acquisitions, being well designed and executed in De La Rue & Co.'s finest style. They are surface printed, and all bear the usual diademed fancy portrait of

the Queen, turned to left, in variously shaped and patterned frames. From amongst them

we have selected the 36 and 96 cents for engraving. The colours are very delicate, and are as follows:—

2 cents,	light brown.
4 "	grey.
8 "	orange-yellow.
16 "	lilac.
24 "	green.
36 "	light blue.
48 "	carmine.
96 "	greyish brown.

The two lowest values remind one closely of the Straits Settlements stamps, both in colour and type. In the two cents the portrait is in a circle, and the inscriptions and

value are in the upper and lower margins; in the four cents the words CEYLON POSTAGE are inscribed on the frame of the circle; the eight cents, the least graceful of the series, has the portrait in an upright oval, and the inscription in top and bottom margins, the sides being filled in with an etruscan border; the 16 cents resembles the 36 c. above figured, but has the value in a curved label below the circle, similar to the inscribed one above it; the 24 c. is identical in design with the 96 cents, of which we give an engraving, the spandrel ornaments alone differing; the 48 c. has the word CEYLON above and POSTAGE below the circle on plain arched labels: the colour of this stamp is very fine. All the values bear the crown and co. watermark. Our correspondent states that up to the present time no new envelope stamps have been issued, but in case any do appear he will lose no time in sending us specimens.

SPANISH COLONIES.—These colonies were, if we remember aright, supplied with the current "decapitated-head" type before the mother-country had the privilege of employing it. In like manner the adopted design, containing the portrait of Amadeus, has already been utilised for Cuba, whilst nothing is

known of the date when it will be issued in Spain. The mother gives to her children before she thinks of herself. We have not yet received information of the values of the new type, but probably they will be the same as those of the current one. The above engraving is from a die proof. Side by side with it we reproduce the illustration we published in our September number of the adopted type in its "essay" state, that our readers may see how far it has been altered. In the portrait the hair over the ear has been literally cut away, so that the ear itself is quite uncovered. Small circular disks have been inserted in the angles, and

the inscription above the portrait is cut off from the border. The lettering is very poor, if the engraving may be trusted, and one might think from the great difference between the boldness of the portrait and the meanness of the border, that the frame and portrait are by different artists; just as in landscapes, one artist sometimes paints the scenery and another the men or animals.

EGYPT.—The annexed illustration represents the new Egyptian type, respecting

which we gave some details last month. The design is poor, and the execution beneath criticism. The change in the ruler's title from Viceroy to Khedive would seem

to have been the chief motive for the issue of the new series, coupled, perhaps, with the decision to issue a new value—the 2½ piastres. The postal decree in reference to the omission is given below: *

Instead of the crescent and star being impressed on the back as on the old issue, these emblems are watermarked in the new comers. The paper is rough and unsurfaced, and the inks employed are so thick that the entire design is more or less blurred, and the first copies now before us might be

*POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE EGYPTIAN KHEDIVATE.
HEAD OFFICE.

NOTICE.

ISSUE OF NEW STAMPS.

His Highness the Khedive has been pleased to approve of the emission of new postage stamps of seven different values, viz. 5, 10, and 20 paras, and 1, 2, 2½, and 5 piastres.

These stamps will be put into circulation on the 1st of January, 1872, and during that month the promiscuous use of the present and the new type for the prepayment of letters and printed matter will be permitted.

On the 1st of February, 1872, the former will cease to be legally current, and letters bearing the old stamps will be considered as unpaid, and treated strictly according to the tariff. The public will, however, be allowed to exchange the old stamps against new ones of equal value, at the post-offices, until the 31st March, 1872, after which they will not be accepted under any pretence.

A copy of this advice, together with specimens of the new postage stamps, will be affixed during the whole of the above period at every post-office.

The Director-General,
MUZZI BEY.

Alexandria, 19 Dec., 1871.

supposed to have been obtained from worn-out stones. Our list of colours requires some slight revision, and, as many varieties of this carelessly printed set are likely to occur, we are anxious to put clearly on record the exact tints of the first arrivals.

5 paras,	red-brown.
10 „	bright mauve.
20 „	Prussian blue.
1 piastre,	rosy red.
2 „	deep chrome-yellow.
2½ „	purple.
5 „	emerald green.

The inscription—in one sense the most important point—is most scampishly done, to use a common phrase, the letters being crowded one over another, and the letter T in the word POSTE is represented by an inverted L. A short life, if not a merry one, may be predicted for the new series.

UNITED STATES.—The annexed engraving represents the very handsome seven cents envelope—head of Stanton—but recently issued, and already scarce; the stock having, it is asserted, been withdrawn from circulation, in consequence of a reduction in the postal rate between the States and Germany to six cents. The colour



is a bright vermilion, on pale lemon, and on white paper.

It seems that the system of halfpenny postal cards is likely to be adopted in the United States with some improvements on our own arrangements. The revival of the plan for adopting the British system of one cent postal cards has (says the *New York Tribune*) already produced a number of inventions which aim to combine the small size of the card in use in England with a means of concealing the writing, and thus obviating the objection urged against the system on the ground of the publicity given to correspondence. One of these inventions is to make the card broader than the English card, with a crease across the middle and a little gum-arabic on the edge, so that the card can be doubled and sealed, the address being on the outside, and the communication

within. Another invention attaches a piece of brown paper, a little longer than the card, to its lower end in such a way that it can be folded over the face of the card so as to conceal the writing, and be sealed upon the back. The address and stamp are to be on the brown paper, and a business notice can be printed on the reverse of the card.

The sensitiveness of the Americans with respect to the exposure of their correspondence surprises us, for our impression has always been that they were fond of publicity. The idea of closing the card is somewhat absurd. The cards are intended for communications of minor importance, which the sender does not care about putting under cover. If the Americans wish to forward a correspondence which they desire to keep secret at the postal-card rate, the simplest plan would be to agitate for a reduction of the letter rate, instead of inventing cumbersome contrivances for closing the card.

GERMANY AND ITALY.—We group these two countries together for the moment; for the former has issued, and the latter is on the point of issuing a new kind of post card—a double one, one half for the sender's message, the other half for his correspondent's reply. We have not seen the German card, and are describing it from the Birmingham journal. We can, therefore, only say that the first half contains the inscription, RUCKANTWORT BEZAHLT under CORRESPONDENZ KARTS; and the second half, intended for the reply, BEZAHLTE RUCKANTWORT; and, further, that it is printed in black on rose. As no mention is made by our contemporary of an impressed stamp, we understand that prepayment is to be effected by means of adhesives as before. The Italian post cards, as it would appear from the *Perseveranza*, of Milan, whence we draw our information, will be stamped. The ordinary ones will be issued at ten and the "reply-paid" cards at fifteen centesimi.

The idea of issuing double cards is both ingenious and practical. It reduces the trouble of correspondence for both sender and receiver to a minimum. The sender, who has hitherto had to write a letter, and enclose with it a stamped and addressed envelope, if he wished to ensure receipt of a reply, can now in one single operation, and

without having any recourse to envelopes, effect his object by employing a "reply-paid" card, whilst the receiver can put his answer beneath the question without any superfluous formalities. We should be glad to see the idea taken up in this country, although we question whether the double cards could be sold at less than a penny, so that there would be no pecuniary saving, but the great economy of time and trouble such cards would effect would render them very popular with business men, and being sold at the same price as two separate cards, the post-office would be no loser.

We should have been rather surprised to see Italy in the van in a matter of postal progress, seeing that her crippled finances sometime back rendered an increase in the letter rates advisable, but it is evident that a change has come over the spirit of the administration, for in the *Riforma*, of Rome, we read that the government "has it in contemplation to reduce the rate of inland postage from 20 to 10 centimes, and to charge newspapers by weight."

FINLAND.—Our Birmingham contemporary notices a second type of the new card, which is distinguished from the first one by the following peculiarities; the border is the tenth of an inch shorter, the impression is in dark green, the lines on the back are continuous, instead of dotted, and the card is surface-tinted a dirty greenish yellow. Our *confrère* looks on this new type as a lithograph, but we cannot convince ourselves that it is not engraved. The impression is not equal to that of the type we described, but this we think is due to the imperfect surfacing and porousness of the card itself; and after careful examination we have arrived at the opinion that the inscriptions on both types have been printed from the self-same plates or stones, the border alone being different. The 8 pen. stamp is not from the same die as the adhesive; Mr. Pemberton proves this from the fact that it has eight stars on the shield, instead of seven.

VENEZUELA.—*Escuelas*.—Our doubts respecting the value of the design of which we gave an illustration last month, have been to a considerable extent confirmed. We cannot find that any province, town, river, or

other geographical feature of Venezuela bears the name of "Escuelas." The person who sent us the specimen from which we described still believes in it, and forwards in proof of its genuine character the letter from his correspondent at Caraccas wherein the stamp was enclosed; but our friend's correspondent testifies conclusively against it, for he says he "encloses a stamp issued by a new establishment in this capital;"* and the *Philatelic Journal* states that it is in fact a school or college stamp, like those issued by some of the North American mercantile academies, and this is probably the truth. We have, consequently, to warn our readers against purchasing copies.

NORWAY.—We were able last month to give a brief notice of a newly-issued 3 sk.

stamp for this country, which we now supplement by an illustration of the design. If not actually the work of the engraver of the new Danish stamps, it is very evidently copied from them. We regret the change from the grotesque lion rampant

to the prosaic numeral, whilst we are bound to admit that the new device has the merit of clearness. It is very probably the forerunner of a new series, to be issued as the stock of the old becomes exhausted. There is some talk of an issue of stamped envelopes.

AUSTRIA.—The *Philatelic Journal* notices a new post card for the "Italian" provinces of the Austrian empire, though where they are situate we confess we do not know, and our contemporary must, we think, acknowledge to a slip of the pen. The inscriptions are, it is true, repeated in Italian, and the facial value we presume to be expressed on the stamp in soldi, in which case it would appear that the card is intended to be used between the Austrian branch offices in Turkey, Servia, &c., and the empire; if so, its issue marks a by no means unimportant extension of the system of cheap communication. How long shall we have to wait for three-halfpenny cards between this country and America, or our American colonies?

* "de las nuevamente establecidos en esta capital."

TURKEY.—*T. B. Morton & Co.*—We draw our readers' attention to an important communication, published in another part of this number, from the director of Morton & Co.'s postal department,—an old and respected correspondent of ours,—who puts the authenticity of the stamps, and the *bona-fide* character of the postal service, beyond a doubt. It will be noticed that he speaks of a forthcoming stamp, and of a new design, value 10 paras, and destined to prepay newspaper postage.

PERU.—From Guayaquil we have received a new Peruvian stamp of the value of one peseta. It is apparently from the same die as the *una peseta* brown of 1862, but being printed in a bright orange colour, presents a much more attractive appearance. Our obliging correspondent informs us that it is the first specimen that has reached him.

TASMANIA.—*The Philatelist* was the first to chronicle a fresh value,—ninepence, deep blue, watermark *TAS* placed obliquely. It will be observed that it is of the same colour as the threepence, and therefore liable to be confounded with it.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We have official intelligence from Victoria, B. C., to the effect that the only postage stamps now in use in that colony are the Canadian. The former series has been destroyed.

HUNGARY.—The engraved 25 kr. is now printed in dull lilac, and is exceedingly effective in appearance.

THE T. B. MORTON STAMPS AND THEIR HISTORY.

THE "T. B. Morton & Co." stamps, and especially those forming the second series, have enjoyed an unenviable reputation. Even after admitting to a qualified extent the genuineness of the first issue, the second was at once condemned by its suspicious likeness to the "Clara Rothe" fabrication. And yet this time the doubters, ourselves amongst the number, are not in the right. The unquestionably genuine character of both series is proved by the following letter from Mr. Panopoulo, an old correspondent of ours, and director of Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co.'s postal department.

DANUBE AND BLACK SEA STEAM CO.
T. B. MORTON AND CO.

Constantinople,
December 27, 1871.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request, I beg to give you the necessary particulars, in order to efface all doubt regarding the authenticity of T. B. Morton & Co.'s postage stamps.

Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co. are a shipping company, established in this city since the year 1855, plying their steamers between Constantinople and the Black Sea, and up the river Danube; and have always carried a private mail. The franking of the letters for the first thirteen years was made either by writing, or by stamping with a handstamp, the word *FRANCO* for all letters paid. This provisional method came to an end in 1869, when, owing to the increase of the company's steamers, an improvement in the postal service became necessary.

1st Emission, June, 1869.—Round handstamp *without steamer* (but a month later *with steamer*), as per enclosed specimens; red and blue impressions on coloured paper, the former representing the uniform postage—1 piastre—for letters of any weight; the latter— $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre—for

newspapers of any weight. The paper of four different colours, signifying the different destinations, viz., *white* for Bourgas, Varna, and Kustendjée; *yellow* for Sulina; *red* for Tulcha and Galatz; and *blue* for Ibrail, the terminus port of the line in the Danube.

In October, 1870, at the time of the withdrawal of the French Messageries from the Black Sea, owing to the Franco-Prussian war, the Trebizond line (Asiatic side) remaining vacant, at the request of a considerable number of interested merchants, this company re-established the line, thus replacing the French service. The postal

service of this new line being of a certain importance, we had to contrive for a new series of regular postage stamps.

2nd Emission, October, 1870.—At present in use, oblong rectangle, perforated, coloured

impression; green ($\frac{1}{2}$ piastre); red (1 piastre); and blue (2 piastres); on white paper; design, &c., as per specimens enclosed; two piastres being the postage on this line

for single weight of about, say, half an ounce; one piastre for books and periodicals; and $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre for newspapers.

A recent reduction of postage on periodicals and newspapers, brings forth a *3rd emission*, December, 1871 (in course of impression), to be used on and after 1st January, 1872. Oblong rectangle, slightly longer, but not broader, than those now in use; perforated. Impression in two colours, viz., black and red on blue paper, and of a different design; specimens of which I will not fail to send you, with particulars regarding same, in due course. Value, 10 paras, = $\frac{1}{4}$ piastre.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

A. B. PANOPOULO,

*Director of the Postal Department of
Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co.*

We have since received a second letter from Mr. Panopoulo, with proofs of the

projected 10 para journal, the emission of which has been delayed through the printer's departure from the instructions he had received as to the distribution of

the colours in the impression. We annex an engraving of the type of the three proofs we have received; one is in black on blue paper, and entirely uncoloured; the others are also in black, the first on white, the second on blue paper, but the whole of the stamp, except the scroll and flags, is covered with a brick-red ground, printed over the black in a second

operation, and the letters T. B. M. & CO. are also in brick-red. The design is lithographed, and the colouring being as roughly laid on as in the illustrations which adorn children's books, the initials are half off and half on the flag. In the stamp as finally issued. Mr. Panopoulo informs us the diagonal lines forming the ground, the initials, the value, and the anchors will be in bright red, and the remainder of the design in black; the issue will also be gummed and perforated. At intervals just outside the line of the lower margin, are some minute initials, which we take to be those of the postal director.

The Morton stamps were first noticed by Monsieur Moens, whose information respecting them, together with the above engraving of the circular type, was reproduced by us on page 121 of our seventh volume. The details there given, so far as they went, were more exact than we ourselves believed them to be at the time, but our incredulity was very excusable, seeing that at that time (as now) many mysterious emissions suddenly "took their rise" on the Continent.

The circular type with steamer above the word FRANCO has, we believe, never before been chronicled. We have ourselves had specimens by us for more than a twelve-month, but have always deferred our intended examination of them; and this we do not now regret. The steamer is wedged in between the word FRANCO and the name which forms the inner arch above, and seems to have been modelled after the style of the wood-cuts which frequently adorn the shipping advertisements in commercial papers. There is no difference between the first and the second issue in the arrangement or size of the inscriptions. Both the circular types are printed on very thin paper, and closely resemble in their general appearance and mode of impression the journal stamps of the old local post of Constantinople; the similarity is even noticeable in the division of the stamps from each other by ruled lines, forming rectangles. The obliterating mark is a large transverse oval band, inscribed T. B. MORTON & CO., CONSTANTINOPLE, and struck in blue or red across the stamp.

The lithographed oblongs, which in reality form the third complete series, are not

devoid of merit, though their looks are in some respects more against than for them. Each value has been separately drawn on the stone, and consequently in each the design differs slightly in detail.

The specimens, we possess of the first two issues, are as follows:—

First issue, circular.

Red, on yellow paper.

"	"	white	"
"	"	blue	"
"	"	rose	"
Green	"	blue	"
"	"	rose	"
"	"	yellow	"

Second issue, circular, steamship above "Franco."

Red, on yellow paper.

"	"	white	"
"	"	rose	"
"	"	blue	"
Blue	"	rose	"
"	"	blue	"
"	"	white	"
Green	"	white	"
"	"	yellow	"

The green impressions were probably blue originally. We understand from the above letter that the circular stamps are still in use, the oblongs having been issued solely for the Trebizond service; if we are wrong, Mr. Panopoulo will correct us.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH OFFICIAL STAMPS AND INVERTED WATERMARKS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I am glad Mr. Atlee has broached the subject of English official stamps. I have for some time collected them, and as they frank letters on which they are impressed, as much as any adhesives, I can see no reason why they should not be collected. To Mr. Atlee's list I now add the following:—

LONDON POST-OFFICES:

1.—Large circle, in centre PAID in two lines; above, LONDON, W.C., and a letter; below, date.

2.—Very similar to 1; CHARGING-CROSS, W.C., substituted for LONDON, W.C., in 1.

3.—Same as "f" in Mr. Atlee's first list (Dec. 1871, p. 178), but without three lines in centre.

To the lists of stamps with inverted watermarks, given at pages 103 and 119 of the 1871 volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, I can add the following:—

England, 4d. red, present issue, inv. garter.

England, 2d. blue, present issue, inv. crown.

Hong Kong, &c., chrome-yellow, inv. crown and cc.

I have several specimens of the 1d. English, with inverted crown, in my possession.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,
HANOVERIAN.

Hamsterley.

[The three franks mentioned by our correspondent are not official in Mr. Atlee's acceptance of the term, but are merely the marks impressed upon letters prepaid in coin over the counter.—ED.]

BOLIVIAN ESSAYS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The strip of *Bolivian* stamps described in your November number, I believe, must be shams. New essays they cannot be, as the value is expressed in the old coinage, which ceased to be current about four years ago, and I do not think there is any intention of substituting it for the decimal currency.

Their similarity to the stamp figured in No. 3 of *The Philatelist* is somewhat suspicious, and again the omission of the flags, cannons, &c., in the Bolivian arms (which, from your description, I fancy figure on these labels) is another argument against their being *genuine* essays at all.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours obediently,
F. W. M.

Talparaiso.

[We are glad to have the opportunity of returning to these stamps. M. Moens, in a supercilious tone which does not add to the value of his remarks, criticises our reference to them in our November number, and is astonished that we should venture to argue the possibility of a new series, because one of our correspondents has received proofs of the type. When one of M. Moens' correspondents receives proofs of a type, the case is different; then there can be no doubt that they indicate a new issue. For our part, with the example of Peru, in consequence of a change in government, reverting to the old device in relief, it did seem to us possible that, under a new order of things in Bolivia, the finely-engraved design of the American Bank Note Co. might be replaced by the primitive type to which we alluded in our November number. This type, as it now appears, was the original of the engraving we published in 1867, but in our wood-cut (which in fact was the same as that which appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste*), the sun is represented by a Phrygian bonnet, and the llama is nowhere, therefore the design described in November by our contributor, seemed to be similar to, but not identical with, that of 1867, and we took it to be a new one. M. Moens now vouchsafes to inform us (and we presume he has obtained the information since the wood-cut made its appearance), that the eleven essays, all differing in detail from each other, were submitted to the Bolivian government in 1860, but refused because they were badly executed, and because the government had then no intention of issuing stamps. Hence they would appear to have been spontaneously designed by the person who offered them to the government, and all the value they possess is derived from the fact that they were really examined and rejected by it.—ED.]

ENGLISH OFFICIAL STAMPS.—IRISH ODDITIES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In Mr. Dudley Atlee's last essay on official stamps, the following Dublin offices were omitted.

Government Prisons,	.. WM. LAMB.
Census of Ireland,	.. HENRY WILKIE.
Chief Secretary's Office,	.. R. W. MATHESON.
Registrar of Petty Session	} J. MACKAY.
Clerk's Office,	
Fines and Penalties Office,	J. MACKAY.

Besides these, I discovered an official envelope impressed with a handstamp, consisting of a circle, surmounted by a crown, enclosing the word PAID, and date (1856); the stamp is struck in *blue*, and the envelope was one belonging to the office of Receiver of Constabulary. It bears on it two signatures; viz., A. B. Cane, and L. B. Briscoe.

In addition to these, in hunting over some old papers, amongst several members' franks I found some very antique covers, handstamped with the words RANELAGH PENNY POST, BRAY PENNY POST, BOLTON'S PENNY POST. Ranelagh is one of the suburbs of Dublin. Bray is situated about twelve miles from that city; the possessive 's added to Bolton would suggest the idea of an individual, not a town. Should I esteem these worthy of a place in my album?

In a young friend's collection, the other day, I came across a Mexican (Hidalgo) *four reales green on yellow*. This is, no doubt, the production of those Yorkshire and Glasgow firms whose dealings you have so justly and openly exposed. I would advise all collectors who wish to keep their albums free from trash and waste paper, to preserve all the forgeries they come across in a small book; by this means they will be able to compare any suspected stamps that come into their hands, and weed their collections accordingly.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Dublin.

M. H. CARR.

[Can any of our readers afford us information on the "penny posts" to which our correspondent refers?—Ed.]

ANOTHER ODD POSTMARK. — THE HAITIAN IMPOSTOR. — THE LOMBARDO-VENETIAN REPRINTS, 1861.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—There is clearly some relationship between the "odd postmark," named at page 13 of your January number, and a handstamp in my possession, which I forwarded to you for inspection in May, 1870, but about which you were unable to give me any information (see vol. viii., p. 80,—*"Answers to Correspondents"*). My envelope was posted at Constantinople, 23rd February, 1870, and is handstamped with a transverse oval, horizontally divided by a bar, above which is FR., surmounted by a small crown, and below, 2 F. 40 c.; beside it is a large pen-and-ink figure 9, which was the number of pence charged on delivery. One of the postmarks reads, "Marseille à Lyon, Spécial," which appears to indicate that the letter enjoyed some special privileges of transit, for which the sender had, no doubt, paid an extra rate; and as it bears no adhesive stamps, I have always considered the handstamp to indicate the amount of postage paid in Constantinople. It thus becomes almost a *stamp*, rather than a postmark, and most decidedly collectable. As you appear to invite information on the subject, I thought the above might interest you.

I was very glad to see the Haitian imposture hit so hard in your Jan. number. I have one in my collection which I obtained when they first came over, but have always considered spurious, and kept merely as a curiosity. One little circumstance, on which my conviction was chiefly based, in the face of the conflicting opinions expressed with regard to this stamp (?), appears to have escaped notice. The dealer I got it from had a dozen or two nice clean used specimens, *not too heavily postmarked*, which he said were the first importations, and assured me he fully believed in them, and their genuineness was quite settled. They were, however, all innocent of gum, and had been *separated with a pair of scissors*. The originator of these impostors is no doubt *well accustomed to handling stamps*. He appears to be in the practice, common amongst dealers, of separating unused specimens

with a pair of scissors; and in preparing his first supply of Haitian 25 c. to put upon the market, the force of habit was too strong, and he forgot that he was going to cancel them, and issue them as used stamps, and that the public never thinks of anything else but *tearing* them apart by means of the perforations provided for the purpose.

If, as seems not improbable (from the fact that many specimens show parts of two or more postmarks), they were delivered to the *party interested*, by his engraver, *ready postmarked in the sheet*, he must have been a still greater "duffer" not to have been sharp enough to tear them apart.

I consider your January number quite settles the question, but the above is additional evidence, if you think it worth inserting.

The Lombardo-Venetian Reprints of 1861.—On examining the specimens of the reprints of the Lombardo-Venetian issues of 1861 (head to right), at my command, I find that some of them are perforated 12, some 10, and others 10 at sides, and 9 at bottom and top. Thus I have specimens of

- a. 2, 3, 10, 15 soldi, perf., 12 all round.
- b. 5, 15 soldi, perf. 10 all round.
- c. 2, 3 soldi, perf. 10 at sides, 9 top and bottom.

My first idea was that this great diversity of perforation tended to favour the supposition that these were the stamps actually prepared for issue, and not destroyed, as has been suggested, but left in an unfinished state, and afterwards perforated in batches to meet the requirements of collectors; but the fact that the 10 and 5 soldi exist in these new varieties, seemed to prove that reprinting had been going on; and on further comparison I find that all the specimens b. and c. are distinguished by poorness of execution, especially in the embossing of the head, as compared with the a. set, and have all brown gum, while the a. set hitherto known has white. It seems, therefore, beyond a doubt that either two or three reprints have taken place, instead of one, as hitherto supposed.

A letter lately received from Trieste, via Germany and Belgium, has the following cancellation disposed in two lines across the stamps.

K. K. FAHRENDES

POSTAMT, NO. 8.

This would appear to refer to a "*mail coach*" or horse conveyance, with a box for the receipt of letters *en route*; as I believe the railway travelling posts obliterate with an "Eisenbahn" stamp. The envelope bore *no other postmark*, either English or foreign, except the letters PD.

Post Cards.—In reference to the curious marks described from my specimens, in your November number, a gentleman of great experience, to whom I submitted them, says,

It has long been known that our authorities put test marks on the stamps, varying from time to time, to guard against forgeries; probably the dots in the P may be such; but I rather think they are all traces of where the engraver left the knob of steel holding his die to the cushion till he had finished his engraving. Their being in the border helps this view.

I conclude he would account for the entire absence of these marks on the bulk of the cards, and the appearance of a smaller number on some specimens, by the gradual wearing down of the stereotype impressions from the original die, these little "knobs" being thus gradually brought to the surface.

Manchester.

Yours truly,

J. C.

[With reference to the odd postmark, we may remark that the figure 9 on ours is not written, but handstamped, apparently at the same time as the rest of the mark.—Ed.]

POSTAGE STAMPS AT AUCTION.

OUR chronicle of events this month would be singularly incomplete, if we omitted to present to our readers an account of the first sale by public auction of stamps held on this side the Atlantic.

Most collectors are aware that this method of dispersing specimens has been tried on several occasions in New York, where it seems to have been inaugurated by the firm of Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.; and when, early in the present year, they opened a "store" in the English metropolis, it seemed almost a natural consequence they should import the American novelty into this country, and see if the British (collecting) public appreciated the specimens thus offered as highly as report said their transatlantic cousins had done. We are unable to say whether the experiment has been a success or not, and indeed, so far as it affects private interests, we are not concerned to inquire; but it is our duty as faithful historians to make our friends fully acquainted with this the latest phase of the stamp-dealing business, and they can draw their own conclusions, and point the moral of the tale for themselves.

Through the courtesy of the well-known firm of literary auctioneers, Messrs. Sotheby & Co., of Wellington Street, Strand, by whom the auction was conducted, we received a copy of the catalogue some days ago; unluckily, we were not able to attend the view of the lots preliminary to the sale, but we studied the catalogue, and made the best use of our opportunities on the 18th March, when the sale took place.

Upwards of 270 lots were offered, very many consisting of single stamps, some of sets or groups. The lots were mounted on neat strips of card, and handed round to the company for examination, much in the style that coins are exhibited at Messrs. Sotheby & Co.'s sales.

The catalogue led off with stamps of the United States, then came a long array of locals (close upon 100 lots of these), miscellaneous stamps followed, and the stamps and envelopes of the Confederate States brought up the rear.

The announcement was that the sale comprised a *selection from the celebrated collection* of Mr. J. W. Scott, and, after the papers which had appeared in the *American Journal of Philately*, we looked with some curiosity to the Local Americans and Confederates as being the quarters where we should discover most of interest.

The first noticeable items were lots 12, a Brattleboro' stamp; 15 and 16, sets of the three types of 5 and 10 cents St. Louis; and 17 and 18, two copies of the redoubtable 20 c. St. Louis themselves.

Of the two last, lot 17 was said to be "*unique*;" lot 18, "*a variety, only one other in existence*:" the latter struck us as the finer copy. Both were knocked down to Mr. Scott, whose name was on the catalogue as himself executing commissions; and we heard it stated in the room that both the 20 c. will go back to America; they realised about £6 10s. apiece. The prices of the 5 and 10 c., about 20/- each, seem to indicate that these are not maintaining the factitious prices put on them by American dealers of late times. We cannot say we regret that any of these stamps should recross the ocean.

Lots 34 and 35, the well-known Bloods, large rectangle, postman striding over houses, we thought fine stamps, though the former was an injured specimen; the latter fetched 50/-, also to Mr. Scott's bid—full value for the copy. Originals are rare, but we dissent from the catalogue addendum, "*nearly unique*," to them. We believe several specimens are to be found in collections in this country.

By the way, how remarkable it is that those who described these stamps, and enumerated among the tests of the genuine that on the house, to the left, the word LITHOGRAPH is to be read printed, failed to notice that the word is incomplete, wanting the initial L; and also, still more strange, that above it, in equally plain lettering, is SINCLAIR, so that it reads SINCLAIR ITHOGRAPH; the lines of the shading run into the end of the lower word, which probably was meant for *lithographer*.

A Blood's paid despatch, dove in large oval (lot 36), fetched 20/-: this is a scarce stamp, but the copy was indifferently good.

"Lot 49, Jefferson Market post office, pink,

unique," was the next object attracting our attention; it provoked some competition, and was knocked down to Mr. Pemberton at £5—an extravagant price in our judgment. The stamp is a poor design, badly executed in lithography, and we must consider its claims as extremely doubtful. Its appearance is not in its favour, and we are at present without any information of a reliable kind which would induce us to put more trust in it than its looks bespeak.

Several very fair copies of well-known stamps followed, such as Messenkope's, Floyd's, Cornwell's, Kidder's (somewhat rare), Gordon's, and Pomeroy's; speaking roughly, they averaged near upon 10/- to 15/-—sometimes 20/-—apiece. We noticed some queer-looking Indian beads (Westervelt's post), in many colours, and one or two little stamps unknown to us, such as Kingman's City Post, Mercantile Library stamps, and others; some of these fetched 20/- to 25/- each.

Lot 109 brought a stamp stated to be unique—the large Boyd's City Express Post. The design is the eagle on globe, like the well-known smaller set, the whole stamp being larger. This copy was stuck over a Pomeroy stamp (female bust), and was a very desirable acquisition; it was knocked down, after very little competition, at 155/-; also, we heard, for America.

Wyman's Engine and Car (lot 113), "*unique*," bought in at 45/-; we do not fancy it deserved to be styled unique.

The general stamps then came on: a rather fine used British Guiana, *patimus*, magenta, brought 28/-; lot 132, a 2 cent. yellow provisional (pearl-border variety, a beautiful copy), realised 12/-, and was not unreasonably dear.

Luçon, or rather Philippines, 5 c. orange-red, 1854 y '55—a good used specimen of a very rare stamp, postmarked with a series of small square dots, fetched 50/-. Lot 140, the next lot, the only used copy of the 10 c. of the deep red or carmine variety, same issue, we ever saw, brought 28/-; and lot 142, deep blue, 1 real, postmarked (circular mark), 26/-; these were all good lots. There was also a fair used specimen of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese blue (arms) Naples, which went at

40/-; and four views of Sydney—unused 1d., two of 2d., and one bad copy 3d.—brought 84/-; well worth the money.

Great running was made for lot 159, the 13 c. Sandwich Islands, figures in fancy bordering. It eventually was secured for £6 10s.—a very full price, as it was of the commoner type known, not the H.I. and U.S. which we lately described.

A Tuscany 2 soldi (passable copy) fetched 19/-, and several ordinary lots of stamps went at low figures. At this, as at all sales we ever attended, some lots went cheap, while others, for no assignable reason, fetched more than far superior or even unused copies could have been procured for of any respectable dealer.

A sale-room is not the place in which to buy the common specimens of anything one collects. Collector's *desiderata* are well known, and if not bid up for by the public till they reach the owner's ideas of value, are usually bought in, or knocked down to a friend, whose protecting aid prevents a sacrifice.

The turn of the Confederates then came, and the biddings got brisker, though some lots fell very cheaply. A Lynchburg, secured for 23/-, coming after a lot for which a *run* had been made by two or three excited bidders, was a bargain. We noticed once or twice, after a keenly-contested lot, the next, whatever it was, fell flat. Mr. Pemberton purchased, at 100/-, lot 219, a real gem in its way, being the 5 c. Nashville, grey on slate, which was the first colour in which this stamp was chronicled by Mount Brown. Of late years its existence in this colour has been doubted, all we have ever seen being falsities; and our verdict dethroned the grey or slate in favour of the pink or carmine. We, therefore, closely examined the copy in this sale, and found it to be from the genuine die. It looked to us like a proof; we could not discover if it had ever been gummed at the back or not, but it was unused and in beautiful condition, and was one of the best things sold. Several fine used pink copies of the same stamp followed, and fetched 40/- and upwards each. This we were glad to see, as these were undoubtedly genuine; but the 3 cent Nashville (lot 218),

pink on white (the abundant recent supplies of which seem to us to indicate reprinting), found little favour, and was knocked down for 20/-.

The Rheatown (lot 223) was the only one we ever saw; it was unused. We did not like its looks, though it may be better than our fears would warrant. The biddings were somewhat slow for this, and its fate was known at 65/-.

Marion again, with its hitherto unknown riches of 2 c., 3 c. ! 5 c. !! and 10 c. !!! is to us a mystery; none of the four values were postmarked; they realised about £5 apiece, one, we think, five guineas. We wish the purchasers joy; they have more faith in them than we possess, and we shrewdly suspect that, as the plates are in existence, we have not yet seen the last of these ugly affairs. It would be a serious misfortune if the prices got at this sale should encourage a reprint.

Pleasant Shade again (lot 240, fetching 35/-) is a stamp we believe to be at best reprinted, but more likely a humbug altogether. Who ever saw an undoubtedly genuine postmarked copy? Where is Pleasant Shade? and what happened to it during the war of the rebellion? These questions, if candidly answered, might help far to solve the point.

Athens (lot 235) realised 50/-. We do not believe in this stamp at all; and on inspection at once should say, *Currotte*. The Macons (lots 236-9) seemed to be received by the company with great incredulity, a sentiment in which we fully share; we believe such a stamp really exists, but deem those offered at the auction to be reprinted, and, consequently, mere rubbish.

The Confederate envelopes were a queer-looking lot. One London amateur bit his fingers in paying 60/- for a copy (evidently reprinted) of the so-called Knoxville envelope. Who ever saw a used copy of this? The fresh ink of the impression was clearly visible as the auctioneer's assistant held it up in passing our eyes. The other envelopes seemed chiefly made by impressing the rudest red and black figures on coarse brown shop-paper envelopes;—a very dull-looking, uninteresting series they were. About 20/- each seemed to be the average price, and we

thought they were mostly bought in. One Houston, postmarked (lot 256), fetched £3; this looked a genuine postmarked envelope to our rapid glance as it passed.

A few United States envelopes, some being very fine varieties, and about as good as anything in the sale, brought it to a close. These also seemed to us bought in, as did many, if not a majority of the lots all through. Our cursory pencil jottings of the prices showed that the hammer fell to a total of nearly two hundred guineas in the aggregate,—a little more, perhaps, than less, but we are not far from the mark.

The auctioneer, who made his first experience in selling stamps, was evidently somewhat amused at the proceedings; so were one or two casual strangers who dropped in during the sale.

Once, to a lot described as "*believed to be unique*," the auctioneer remarked the announcement was *modest*, which provoked one of the company to say, "We expected that from America just now!" This elicited some laughter, but otherwise we have seen much more fun over a country sale of crockery ware, and much more spirit in the biddings.

Almost all the leading metropolitan amateurs and dealers were present, with representatives of the philatelic press, so that a more favourable company can hardly be expected on any subsequent occasion. But there was an evident atmosphere of distrust as to many of the lots; a pervading idea of reprinting, and dread of bogus stamps, which seemed to weigh against the biddings; an impression not altogether removed by the fact, that most of the rarities in locals were either bought in by Mr. Scott, or supposed to have been purchased for American commissions. Nothing prejudices the spirit or competition of a public sale so much as the idea that the bidders are to be trotted out against the proprietor, or must bid in the dark against unknown competitors.

We shall look with interest to see if, in the result, this sale sets the fashion, and brings others in its train; and if fresh importations of stamps, whose authenticity is equivocal, make their mushroom appearance in the market.

THE PRINTING OF THE LUXEMBURG STAMPS.

REPRINTED FROM "LE TIMBRE-POSTE."

LOOKED at from an artistic point of view, the Luxemburg postage stamps are distinguished as well by their design as by their perfect execution. Those of the first emission, with effigy of the King-Grand-Duke, possess, beyond contradiction, great merit. As far as fineness of engraving goes, they may be placed in the same rank with the first Dutch stamps, which are excellent engravings, and even with the Belgian stamp of the first series,—recognised as one of the most beautiful,—surpassed in design or execution only by the magnificent English stamps, and those of some of the English colonies.

The stamps of the other two types are irreproachably executed, and are far above those of the German states, manufactured after the same plan. Above all, the last type, represented by the 1, 2, and 4 cent., is of incontestable fineness; it is remarkable by its well-brought-out details, as also by its charming ornaments, and may compete with the French stamps, fabricated upon a superior system.

The stamps of the first issue were prepared by the government, by which it was considered advisable to follow the method employed in Belgium, a method which had, in fact, been first adopted by England, and consisted in engraving the design in *taille-douce*, on steel plates.

M. Barth, engraver, and M. Michel, mechanic, both Luxemburgers, were sent to Brussels, to visit the workshops of the Belgian government, and to get ready the necessary plant. The first made the matrices, the reproducing cylinders, and the plates, of which there were four, two for each value, each plate containing 200 copies. The second constructed the forms for the fabrication of the watermarked paper, as also the printing-machines, and those for surfacing and pressing the paper.

The enormous expenses which attended the mounting of the first stamp manufactory (from £400 to £500), decided the government to give up the system of engraving on steel for the other stamps. Another cause

of the abandonment of this costly process was the outlay occasioned by the preparation of an annual supply of the stamps,—a work executed by M. Barth, under the surveillance and control of a government agent,—an outlay which each time amounted to £24, and which, with the cost of keeping the machines in order, far exceeded the sum necessary for the acquisition of the *matériel* required for the manufacture and the printing of a several years' stock of all the stamps of the other two types.

The first machines were sold by the government as soon as the plates became unserviceable for the printing of the stamps.

Of the first type M. Barth has produced a proof of the 10 c. and of the 1 s. gr., printed in black on whitish drawing paper; and another proof of the 10 c., in black on ordinary paper.

When, in 1859, it was decided to introduce the 25, 30, 37½, and 40 c. stamps of the second type, it was necessary, as above stated, to change the system of printing, on account of its expensiveness. The system of printing by the typographic process, by means of electrotypes casts, already in use in most of the German states, was then adopted. Tenders for the printing were at once received from Luxemburg engravers, typographers, and printers; those of a Frankfort type-founder, M. Dressler, to whom the government had addressed itself, were, however, found the most advantageous, and were accepted.

It was this gentleman who made the current 10, 12½, 25, 30, 37½, and 40 c. stamps. For a sum of about forty pounds he furnished 250 cubes of the 10 centimes and 125 cubes of each of the other values. When making his tender, he submitted for inspection by the government a proof of the 10, and one of the 30 centimes, printed in black, on white paper, of perfect execution, and of which there exist but a few rare copies.

At first, the work of printing the stamps was entrusted to Luxemburg printers; Mr. V. Buck then sent in (June, 1859) a proof of the 30 cent., in brownish lilac, on white laid paper, watermarked with a w. The execution was very mediocre; the printer did not succeed in bringing out the fine points

of the design, probably because the instruments employed were not exact enough, or the workmen did not possess the requisite experience for such delicate work.

This failure necessitated a fresh inquiry abroad, and the Frankfort printer, M. Naumann, was applied to—the one who, some time previously, had made the bonds for the Luxemburg loan. By him were presented, in July, 1859, two proofs of the 10 centimes, in reddish lilac, on white, machine-made paper, one without watermark, and the other with a W as a watermark; and the satisfactory way in which they were executed secured him the concession of the contract for printing the stamps. It is this same firm which has not only printed the stamps of the second type since 1857, and the 1, 2, and 4 c. of the third type, but has also furnished the casts for the three latter stamps, much better made than those of the second type, delivered by the type-founder, Dressler.

In April, 1863, Mr. Erasmy, lithographer, of Luxemburg, solicited the favour of being allowed to print the stamps, and submitted to the government two typographic proofs of the 10 c., printed in dull blue, one watermarked with a W, the other unwatermarked. The impression on the watermarked paper succeeded better than the other, but the two proofs not being found satisfactory, the government continued to confide the printing to M. Naumann.

When the change of colour of the 10, 25, and 37½ c. took place, in July, 1865, and again on the occasion of the issue of the 20 c., in 1867, M. Naumann's firm presented as proofs, to be chosen from by the government, all the stamps of the two latter types, printed in various colours, of which the following have found a place in some collections:—

1 centime	blue, rose, green, pale lilac, reddish lilac, brown (imperforate).
2	„ blue, rose, green (imperforate).
4	„ blue, rose, green (imperforate).
10	„ lilac-mauve, light lilac, reddish lilac, dark brown, Prussian blue (imperforate).
12½	„ green (rouletted in lines of colour).
20	„ vermillion, iron-grey, ash, brownish grey, olive, sea-green, light blue (rouletted in lines of colour).
20	„ blue, rose, green (imperforate).
25	„ reddish lilac, green (imperforate).
37½	„ light blue (rouletted in lines of colour).
40	„ light brown („ „).

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XVIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Moldavia.

(Continued from page 25.)

HERE the string of facts comes to an end, and we are called upon, with their aid, to estimate the value of the numerous types which pretend to genuineness. Whoever is practically acquainted with the extent of the demand for stamps by collectors, will, I am sure, be disposed to agree with my assertion, that the total number of specimens of these early Moldavian printed to meet it is four or five times greater than the number of stamps shown by the official documents to have been struck off for use in Moldavia itself. They have been in constant request, have been sold for the last nine years by every dealer of any standing, have never been dear, and are met with in every album of any pretensions whatever. Under Dr. Magnus' analysis they resolve themselves into fifteen distinct types, five for each value, but the finance office minute distinctly states that four "seals," or handstamps, only were prepared, and that with them the supply of 24,000 labels was to be struck. There could have been no casts taken, the four dies were sufficient for such a very moderate amount of work, and when it was done, they were, with due formality, returned to the finance minister. Hence it results, beyond dispute, that *there can be but one genuine type for each value*, and this is a deducible fact which overrules Dr. Magnus's leaning in favour of the authenticity of two types of each.* The old hypothesis, accounting for the existence of varieties, to the effect that each post-office possessed its own dies, and struck off its own supplies, is equally upset. Although the design and execution of the stamps are barbarous in the extreme, and their presumed hap-hazard arrangement would lead us to argue a totally unregulated

* This was in type before I saw the editorial foot-note in the February number, respecting the learned doctor's present opinion. I have, however, thought it better to leave these observations in type, as it is desirable, once and for all, to establish the truth respecting these stamps.

issue, the facts are, that the stock was worked off at one place and time under the superintendence of a qualified official, the numbers printed, issued, and returned into stock, being known.

Again, returning to our starting-point, it is known that nearly all the Moldavian stamps at present in existence are unused copies. This is a characteristic which alone suffices to condemn them. It is hardly possible that a genuine unused copy can be in existence; if any are to be found they must rank among the primest rarities in a collection. To prove my position, and, at the risk of being reproached with repetition, let me remind my readers that the 24,000 stamps printed were estimated to be sufficient for a year's consumption, and that when the issue was withdrawn, after a currency of only sixteen weeks, about half the total number were found unissued in the cashier's safe. What had become of the other half? The only rational answer is that they had been used. The consumption had been considerably in excess of the estimate, but primitive indeed must have been the habit of correspondence in Moldavia if the whole country could not furnish twelve thousand letters in more than a quarter of a year. Still, it may be urged, what actual proof is there that a certain number of surplus stamps did not remain in the provinces, and thus ultimately find their way into the hands of collectors,—in other words, that the stock found in the cashier's safe comprehended the unemployed supplies issued to the provincial post-offices? This objection it is not difficult to dispose of, for strong inferential proof exists that *all* the unemployed stamps were included in the stock returned to the finance minister. The inventory of the "remainder" was taken on the 26th February, 1859, whilst the circulation ceased on the 1st November, 1858. There was, therefore, an interval of about four months, during which there would be ample time for the country offices to return their unused stock to the head office; and the only one missing link in the chain is the date of the death or final withdrawal from his office of the cashier, as operations seem to have been suspended after his departure. It is, however, fair to

suppose that as the head post-office had to render to the finance office a rigorously strict statement of the unemployed stamps, accompanying that statement with the stamps themselves, it exacted an equally strict statement, and the return of the unemployed stamps, from its own subordinate offices. Besides which, the postmaster and the controller, in returning the "remainder" to the finance office, are careful to state that they will be followed by an "account," which could hardly be other than a table, showing the number of stamps used, together with other postal statistics in connection with their issue and the general working of the tariff. From these premisses, and the fact that no mention is made, in document No. 548, of outstanding stock, I conclude that the quantities therein named really comprehended all the unissued and all the issued but unemployed stamps.

This much being granted, the "remainder" of 11,692 stamps is traced into the hands of the finance minister. Have any of these stamps ever been delivered out to stamp collectors? I answer decidedly not, and for this simple reason,—that if the finance office had given away specimens of the three higher values, it would also have given away specimens of the 27 paras. There were 2325 copies of this latter value returned into stock, or nearly double the number of the 81 paras; yet not a single unused copy has ever been seen, nor is ever likely to be. The "remainder" of all the values must therefore have been destroyed, or must be still lying intact among the archives of the finance office, and all the unused specimens of the four values must be forgeries or reprints. That they are reprints I think is not admissible. The dies, being rendered up to the finance office, passed out of the power of the postal *employés*, who have so often been solicited by dealers for specimens; and we have never heard of any official reprint taking place such as that of the Austrian first issues, or the French republic series of 1848. I therefore cannot see the possibility of returning any other verdict than that they are all alike forgeries.

I do not think it is needful to discuss at length the aspect of the question which

would result from the assumption of the correctness of the alternative hypothesis above referred to, with regard to the origin of the unused specimens, to the effect that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the series, the unemployed stocks were really held over by the post-offices to which they had been issued; for at the very outset there would again arise the fatal objection that no unused copies of the 27 paras have ever been found; and it is not conceivable that the stamps of this value should have been used up to the last one, whilst abundant supplies of the others should have been kept by the provincial offices.

To define the true type for each value would be a difficult and a useless task. It would be difficult because there are so very few used specimens in existence to describe from, and because even the used copies may bear fraudulent obliterations.* It would be useless, for in all probability very few, if any, of my readers will ever be called on to decide on the genuineness of obliterated copies, and the unused condemn themselves. Dr. Magnus has only seen four obliterated copies in all—one of which, a 54 paras, was obtained by Mr. Philbrick from the secretary to the late Lord Palmerston, and another is the only known specimen of the 27 paras. The genuineness of the latter may be taken for granted, and Dr. Magnus observes that this 27 paras and Mr. Philbrick's 54 paras are both obliterated in the same manner, so that the authenticity of this latter is likewise proved. Another 54 paras, agreeing in type and postmark with the one above referred to, and a 108 paras, with a dubious postmark belonging to the stamps of the second series, complete the list of the doctor's four specimens. Three only, out of the four, are genuine, and we less favoured collectors are not likely to see so many, therefore we had better decide on abstaining altogether from the attempt to collect specimens of the first Mol-

davian series. We must look upon them as philatelic mammoths and dodos,—extinct species, of which but few traces exist; and, above all, we must refrain from investing in the spurious imitations which are all that can now be obtained.

Whence come these imitations, which have been offered in good faith by many dealers of unblemished honesty? From the very spot where, of all others, it might, in the absence of positive information, have been supposed that genuine specimens were obtainable,—from Jassy. Mons. Moens has received his from the Austrian post-office there. Dr. Viner, as long since as 1864, got them in the same town; and other applicants have also drawn their supplies from Jassy, or from the district. This just shows, that as soon as the demand for stamps sprung into existence, and inquiries were addressed to postal officials in Moldavia, they, or others for them, were shrewd enough and dishonest enough to profit by it, by fabricating impressions to imitate the genuine ones. Perhaps, by this time, those who furnish the imitations have got to believe them to be genuine, and so, too, have a good many collectors, who will be loth to admit that they have been deceived; but we now know the truth concerning the emission, and we must submit to its results.

The late discovery of the 27 paras is a remarkable circumstance, to which, in conclusion, it is necessary to refer, to prevent the deduction of erroneous inferences. It might be said, it is strange that the officials who forged or sold forgeries of the three higher values did not likewise forge the lower one. But the true answer to this must be that its existence was overlooked, or forgotten. The very fact that the *true* stamp was not discovered until 1868 proves it. The 27 paras had as real an existence as the others, and was more used than two out of the other three values; yet no one, writing from Roumania, ever referred to it, and had it not in some sort sunk into oblivion, some one or another would, even if unable to procure it, have at least referred to the fact of its having existed. But this value, it must be remembered, was used only for the shorter distances, and less notice may have been

* Mr. Pemberton says (*Philatelist*, vol. ii., p. 53), Who can show us a specimen with a postmark whose genuineness can be proved beyond suspicion? Of course there are plenty of them [?] to be seen postmarked, but what is that postmark?—a rather close imitation of one found on some of the 1861 stamps, and the shape of which is very peculiar.

taken of it than of the stamps which prepaid "large" or registered letters.* Furthermore, in 1862 the entire postal service was re-organised, and very probably, on that occasion, important changes in the *personnel* took place, the head office also being moved from Jassy to Bucharest; and it was not until the year after that inquiries were made at Jassy for the stamps of a series two removes from the one then current. These circumstances answer the conjectures which might be founded on the isolated fact of the immunity from forgery of the 27 paras, but were they insufficient for the purpose, such conjectures could not shake the value of the other and combined facts which demonstrate the impossibility of the unused copies of the remaining values being anything else than forgeries.

THE ENGRAVING AND PRINTING OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

A CRITIQUE, BY AN ENGRAVER.

M. MOTTEROZ has just published a remarkable work—*Essais sur les gravures chimiques en relief*. The same indefatigable explorer of every ramification of printing art has sent a long communication to *L'Imprimerie* concerning the manufacture of bank notes and postage stamps; and on the subject of postage-stamp printing we find him so interesting that we shall quote him entire:—

To be convinced that there are difficulties almost insurmountable in executing really fine printing, it is enough to look at postage stamps, which each government endeavours to have as well executed as it can get them.

On their first appearance, postage stamps were almost everywhere produced by the copper-plate process; in two or three countries lithography was the fashion.

These two printing processes are enormously more costly and less regular than that of letter-press. Plates, like transfers, wear out rapidly; and after having had a few

good proofs, one has to do with blurred and worn-out lines.

A large number of countries now follow the letter-press plan; and since every government endeavours to have its letter-press stamps as fine as if in copper, we may judge of the difficulties there are to surmount.

The examination of a collection, almost complete, which M. Baillieu has been so kind as to place at my disposal, together with a large amount of information, enables me to give a few hasty outlines of the present state of postage-stamp printing in the different divisions of the globe.

Lithographed Stamps.—Mexico and most of the Spanish colonies employ lithography, although the results obtained are generally bad.

Bergedorf has some rather good proofs.

Roumania, some very middling.

New Caledonia lithographs a horrible caricature of Napoleon III.

During the siege of Paris the government, which probably failed to send its postage-stamp *clichés* out of town, had some stamps lithographed in the country, which were not nearly so bad as the other lithographed stamps.

Stamps from Copper-plate.—The United States use copper-plate both for their bank notes and their postage stamps, and have obtained splendid results. A postage stamp for 15 cents reproduces a large picture representing Columbus taking possession of America, and each one of the numerous personages is perfectly visible.

Brazil, Chili, and the Argentine Confederation, have now very fine postage stamps, engraved and printed at New York by the American Bank Note Company.

Jamaica, Malta, and Holland, for the higher-priced stamps, have very finely-wrought engravings; too much so for good printing.

Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and some other English Colonies, still use copper-plate.

Letter-press Stamps.—Russia employs thin inks, and has some *chefs-d'œuvre* of typography.

The stamps for the English colony of Hong Kong are almost as fine as those of Russia; and some of them might be mistaken

* This argument is also adduced by a well-known writer in the *Philatelic Journal* for February, in the course of a short but interesting article on these stamps.

for copper-plate engravings. The celebrated house of De La Rue & Co., of London, produces them. This extraordinary house manufactures the stamps of a large number of countries, and engages in everything which relates to paper. At this very moment it has hold of the French market for letter papers, and our stationers do not go out of their way to struggle against this invasion.

The British Indian stamps, as well as those of the Mauritius, are very striking as to their printing.

The latest issue of Portugal is also very fine.

Whilst the English colonies have stamps printed in superior style, Great Britain herself has very ordinary ones. The English stamps are at about the same level as those of Turkey, Greece, Switzerland, France, Prussia, Hanover, Denmark, and Würtemberg. In the last-named country, about the year 1850, a very elegant stamp was brought out, composed exclusively of vignettes and type.

Stamp printing is less than mediocre in Poland, in Norway, in South Australia, and New South Wales; it is really bad in Victoria, and particularly in Spain and the Spanish colonies, where letter-press is used.

Italy is difficult to class. It is the country of experiments in stamps. The Italian are of all styles; and in the present time some are made which are rather good than bad. But in this land of art, nothing excellent has been produced, if we except the very remarkable copper-plate stamp produced in Sicily, towards the end of the reign of Ferdinand.

Of all postage stamps, the worst are those of the Papal States. Engraving and printing alike carry us back to the infancy of those two arts.

Conclusion.—In the very considerable number of stamps made use of in all countries, there is scarcely half a score of which one can say,—these are well printed. If an examination were made of the innumerable papers of value, of private and public banks, all the world over, the same proportion would be disclosed. Whence it may be concluded, that the most insurmountable obstacle to oppose to the forging of bank notes, postage

stamps, and other papers of value, is an absolutely perfect impression of finely-engraved surfaces.

At the present time, when the increase in our taxes is causing a great number of new stamps to be printed, I have thought it my duty to point out the surest means of frustrating the designs of those who may intend to defraud the public treasury.—*The Printers' Register.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our budget this month is comparatively unattractive, being almost exclusively composed of notices of minor varieties. The sole prominent exception is the new series for

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—This is noticed by our New York contemporary, who describes it as "simply a disgrace to any country." The stamps are, according to him, "the poorest engraved in use in the British dominions;" and we can fully bear out his opinion ourselves, and so, we think, will our readers, after examining the annexed engraving. The list of the values is as follows:—

One	cent	orange
Three	"	rose
Six	"	violet
Twelve	"	green

The design consists of the head of the Queen to left, in various frames, and inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, POSTAGE, with value in words. The stamps are printed on soft white paper, unwatermarked and badly perforated. In size they are rather above the average, being as large as the Costa Rica stamps. It is surprising that at a period in the issue of stamps, when all our colonies are seeking to obtain finely-engraved and artistic designs, the Prince Edward Island authorities should, from an apparent enthusiasm for economy, prefer the rough productions of some native artist to the finished works of the American Bank Note Company. As these stamps mark the supercession of the

antiquated currency, in favour of the decimal system, they were certainly worthy of a finer design.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—We are in receipt of a batch of hitherto unengraved locals, from our St. Petersburg correspondent, which we proceed to describe.

Tamboff.—Annexed are illustrations of the 3 kop. stamp, black on white, described in



the list published by us in July last, and of a new 5 kop. stamp, issued in mauve, of a delicate tint, on white, re-

minding one strongly of the 5 kop. Russian envelope. The design is very fairly engraved in this latter, and our correspondent assigns as a reason for the representation of the bees and hive, which form the armorial bearings of the government or county of Tamboff, situate to the south-east of Moscow, that that government is entirely composed of very fertile land.

Livni.—This is the least interesting of all the Russian locals, and in appearance resembles nothing so nearly as a bobbin label. Description—"bless you (to paraphrase on Canning's knife-grinder), we've none to give," further than that the impression is on a crimson paper, and that the stamp is punched out of the paper on which it is printed, so as to leave a rim of scalloped dents following the outer margin of the border.

Soumma.—The 3 kopecs stamp (brown), known so long since as 1869, and engraved on p. 11 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870, has been superseded by a stamp of similar design, the value being increased, as in the case of the Tamboff, from three to five kopecs. The new comer is lithographed deep red on white. The device in the centre is a play on the name of the town, which signifies a bag.

Our correspondent, with reference to the Tamboff and Soumma stamps, makes the very just observation that the retrograde movement, evidenced in the increase of the

local rates from 3 to 5 kopecs is much to be regretted. It would seem, however, that these low rates do not really pay. Our correspondent was so informed by the local authorities, from whom he obtained the specimens he has sent us, and they gave that as a reason for charging him an extra kopek each for the stamps.

Egorieff.—The diamond-shaped 3 kopecs stamp, of which we gave an illustration in our magazine for November last, exists in at least two varieties of type. There are a black and blue, both lithographs, and a black impression, apparently from an engraved die. The execution of the latter is relatively very fine, the lines of the ground-work being very clearly drawn, and the lettering and corner stars sharp and well-defined. The paper, also, is thicker and stouter.

TURKEY.—*T. B. Morton & Co.*—The 10 paras journal stamp, to which we referred last month, is now in use, and differs very much from the original design, of which we lately gave an illustration. The error of the lithographer has led to the entire suppression of the diagonal lines and the oval corner disks, and the flag has been re-drawn. The design now consists of the border, scroll, and the words JOURNAL STAMP, in black, and the value, flag, and anchors, in red. The value occupies the same place as in the proof, and the anchors are in a slanting position in the lower corners. The impression is on white paper, perforated, and altogether its effect is decidedly poor.

The proof represented in our last number was not the first design submitted to the Morton company. The really original design, now before us, has the oval disks at the corners, but they are unshaded, and the diagonal lines are also wanting. Nine thousand impressions of this type were struck off, in anticipation of its acceptance, on blue paper, the disks being printed in mauve, and they have now been turned to account by the company, in consequence of a reduction of its letter-rates from 2 piastres to 1½ piastre. A 50 paras stamp is to be issued to represent this rate; but pending its preparation the blue 10 para journal stamps are employed, in conjunction with the 1 piastre stamp, issued in 1870; and to fit them for

this service the word **LETTER** has been surcharged in red on the word *Journal*.

DECCAN.—There exist two values of the current series, one of which has been only partially noticed, and the other not at all. The one anna was referred to by Mr. Pemberton, at p. 123, of our last volume, but he had then only a proof to describe from, which was printed in deep lilac. On p. 187, he gives the colour as russet-brown, and in the February number of the *Phil. Journal*, he quotes it as being of a rich black-brown. This designation is objected to by our Brighton contemporary, who insists that "a very dull puce-brown is the hue most approaching the truth." We have the stamp before us, and at first sight should have pronounced the creature black; on more closely examining it, we find that it is really of a brownish hue, but we hardly like to say positively what other tint enters into its composition; we fancy a triple denomination—purple, blackish brown—is required for it, but perhaps purple-sepia might be accepted as a compromise.

The second value, which is quite a new one, is the two annas bright-green, respecting whose tint no controversy can possibly arise.

NORWAY.—The new 3 sk., of which we gave an engraving last month, has been joined by a 4 sk. bright violet, and both stamps bear a post-horn as watermark. There is also a yellow post card with the 3 sk. design impressed in carmine on its right upper corner. The inscription is **BREV. KORT.**

Again, there is a 3 sk. envelope, bearing the adhesive design in carmine, and the Norwegian lion rampant, on a shaded shield, is struck on the flap. We take these details from *Le Timbre-Poste*, not having yet seen the card ourselves. An envelope and a card, each of the value of 2 skilling, are expected. It has been rumoured that the 3 sk. adhesive is an official; this we can affirm is not the case, as we have received it on ordinary letters.

FRANCE.—The 1, 2, and 4 centime, unperforated, with effigy of the republic, are now rarely to be met with. The *Petit Moniteur Universel* of the 19th March contains the following paragraph:—

The postal administration will shortly put on sale stamped envelopes. It is an experiment which will last for some weeks. The envelopes and the adhesives will be sold concurrently, so that the postal administration may ascertain the public preference, with a view to the adoption of a definite measure.

We do not know how much importance is to be attached to this intelligence; we fear not much. There have been too many such *canards*.

A French paper of the 22nd March says:—"The idea of issuing postage stamps with a large figure in the centre has been definitively abandoned. Some designs of this kind were printed and submitted to the president of the republic, but they were considered too ungainly. The new type which has been finally decided on consists of a small-sized effigy of the republic, enclosed in a broad border of about a millimetre in diameter. The value being thrice repeated in figures sufficiently large, no error can be possible. The new stamps cannot be put in circulation before another month or six weeks, for this period will be required to engrave the plates and strike off a sufficient number of copies."

Assuming this intelligence to be correct, the time required for preparing a supply seems very much underrated, and we can hardly anticipate the appearance of the new stamps for some months to come.

CAYLON.—The annexed engraving represents one of the envelopes of the new decimal series. The engraving has been supplied to us by the proprietors of the *Philatelic Journal*, and we are unable to do more than insert it in the present number. In the next we hope to give full details respecting the series,

which, if the above design may be taken as a sample, would seem to vie in beauty with its predecessor.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste* appears an engraving of a handstamp, said to be used by the present Constantinople local post, for the prepayment of printed matter sent under band, for distribution in Constantinople and its suburbs. It is circular, with Turkish let-

tering in the upper part, and P.P. below. The Turkish inscription reads, URZETE AHS OLOUNMOUS, and signifies prepaid. The impression is in black, on white and on blue paper. What the local post really is we know not; we remember hearing, some time back, a rumour to the effect that the local post had been re-established, but have never received any confirmatory details that such was the case.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The vaccination certificates all bear an impression from the die of the halfpenny wrapper stamp, but the tint somewhat differs. It is, however, principally remarkable from the fact that the three disks below the circle bear the date—18-12-71.

The post cards are now only sold at the post-offices in batches of twelve, and private cards will be allowed to pass through the post the same as in Germany. Below we give, *verbatim et literatim*, the report of the proceedings in the House of Commons on the subject.*

CHILI.—We learn from *The Philatelist* that envelopes for this republic have been ordered

* Mr. Greene asked the postmaster-general whether the post-office authorities had decided that in future not less than a dozen postal cards could be bought at any post-office, an extra halfpenny being charged for the same; and, if so, whether he had considered the effect on the poorer classes, of a decision which obliged them to purchase twelve cards, when only requiring one.

Mr. Baxter, in the absence of the postmaster-general, said,—It has been decided that in future not less than a dozen post cards can be bought at any post-office, and that an extra halfpenny shall be charged for the same. Experience has shown that the poorer classes hardly ever use post cards, and it rarely happens that a single card is sold to anyone. It is calculated that the change will increase the revenue by £13,000 per annum. I may add, that papermakers and stationers of the United Kingdom have, from the first, strongly complained that the interests of their trade were being seriously affected by the sale of the post cards for a halfpenny each, without any charge being made for the cards themselves. But this is not the only change proposed. The stationers have also remonstrated against the exclusion of all private cards from a participation in the privileges accorded to the post cards issued by the Government; and, as the departmental reasons which seemed at the first to render such exclusion necessary, no longer exist, it is intended to allow private cards, having written communications upon them, to pass through the post, under certain restrictions, for a postage of a halfpenny. This will give opportunity to the stationers to devise a variety of cards, differing both in quality and design, for general use; and all classes will participate, more or less, in the accommodation.—*The Times*.

in the United States, and will consist of five values, namely:—

2	centavos	bronze.
5	„	red.
10	„	blue.
15	„	(?)
20	„	green.

The impression will be on white and yellow and blue tinted paper. A fifteen centavos adhesive is also to be issued, but its colour has not yet been decided on.

HUNGARY.—The first journal stamp has been replaced by another type, which differs, however, only in trifling details from the old one. The opening of the post-horn is turned to the left, and the cross on the crown inclines to the same side. The new stamp is printed in rose on white, and is unperforated.

URUGUAY.—The provisional 15 c. bistre, of 1864, has three varieties, (1) with figures upside down; (2) with three figures 15, the third in the middle of the stamp between the two others; (3) with the figures 20.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The fourpence rose of this colony is now printed of a maroon shade, and consequently presents a more sombre appearance.

CANADA.—Another new value of the small series has been issued—the two cents, of a delicate chrome-green.

STRANGE—IF TRUE.

ALLEGED ISSUE OF STAMPS BY THE COMMUNE.

M. EMILE LAMBRY was employed in the Paris post-office under the empire, and afterwards during the siege. He probably continued to exercise his functions during the Commune. He is now editor of *La Vérité*, and he has written a book, which is divided into two parts. The first contains an account of the "Black Cabinet" and its superintendent, the second is entitled, "The Post Office under the Commune."*

M. Lambry, as a post-office *employé*, must have had peculiar opportunities of informing himself on many matters connected with the history and administration of the service. His account of the manner in which M.

* *Les Mystères du Cabinet Noir sous l'Empire; et La Poste sous la Commune.* Par Emile Lambry. Paris: E. Dentu.

Simonel, the chief of the secret cabinet, manipulated suspected letters, is not the hypothesis of an outsider, but apparently the result of personal knowledge and observation. In like manner, though he nowhere explicitly states that he remained at his post during the reign of the Commune, his narrative of the events which took place at the *Hôtel des Monnaies* is of that graphic character which denotes personal intimacy with the facts he relates. Therefore, anything that he states is, *primâ facie*, of special value, and likely to be true. His history of the *Cabinet Noir* is very interesting, and we intend in an early number to publish an abridgment of it; but in the present article we only purpose to bring before our readers, and comment on, M. Lambry's account of the issue of postage stamps by the Communist postmaster.

After reciting the circumstances which attended on the accession of M. Theisz, the chaser of metals, to the directorial chair, and the difficulties which had to be surmounted in performing the postal service, M. Lambry goes on to say:—

After much searching among the office stores, a supply of postage stamps representing a rather large sum was found, but they were all of ten centimes. These were used for want of better, and whilst preparations were being made for striking off others. But the ordinary engravers to the administration had nearly all taken to flight, and those who remained refused their services. M. Theisz, himself an engraver, found some workmen to whom he entrusted the work. But how many plates had to be destroyed before a tolerably satisfactory result could be obtained! At last, after many hindrances, postage stamps could be got of all values—from one to eighty centimes. No attempt was made to print five-franc stamps; in the first place, because they were more difficult to impress than the others, and, secondly, for the excellent reason that not one would have been sold.

Hardly were these stamps, which had been obtained with such difficulty, put in circulation, than a vexatious rumour was spread about. The regular postal administration had had stamps printed for its use at Versailles, but, to distinguish them from those fabricated at Paris, it abstained from perforating them. You know that for some years past, the French administration, following in this the English example, had had the sheets of stamps perforated, so that each stamp might be easily separated from its neighbour. The absence of perforation in the Versailles issue, therefore, rendered evident the Parisian falsification. It was even asserted that the letters bearing a perforated stamp were considered as unpaid; the Versailles people drew a pen across the stamp, and the receiver had to pay the entire postage. This piece of news spread among the tradesmen, and all the large houses sent their letters to St. Denis by one of their men. In that town they were prepaid by means of a Versailles stamp.

M. Theisz had authorised the establishment of postal

agencies, charged with the duty of carrying letters to Versailles, and bringing back those for Paris. These firms were only to carry prepaid letters. In consequence of selling many postage stamps, they procured in Paris stamps on which they were allowed a discount of one per cent, but they sold to their clients the stamps from Versailles on which they had obtained no discount.

It will be easily understood that with such a system, the receipts must necessarily sensibly diminish. Thus, offices which at the *début* of the Commune, sold a hundred francs' worth of stamps per day, in a short time after sold only 40 francs. In most of the offices the sale fell to a ridiculously low figure.

The postal council was called together, consisting of a dozen members, in order to find a mode of preventing fraud; and it was decided that inspectors should be appointed, charged with the duty of visiting the tobacco shops and postal agents. These inspectors went to work the next morning, and presented themselves everywhere. Everywhere perforated stamps were shown them, but hardly were their backs turned, than the sale of the unperforated ones recommenced.

This information is at variance with all we know respecting the history of the French postage stamps during the Commune. Its writer, though engaged in the Parisian post-office, appears to ignore the fact that the unperforated stamps were printed at Bordeaux soon after the Prussian investment of the capital; yet, when that investment ceased, a vast number of letters from the departments, all prepaid with the unperforated stamps, must have passed through the chief office, under his eyes. Furthermore, though we cannot tax our memory so far as to declare positively that perforated stamps were used at Versailles during the insurrection, we are very much inclined to believe that such was the case; and we do know that from about the end of March, the use of the unperforated stamps gradually declined everywhere. In proof of this we may mention that in our May number (1871), the fact of the distribution of a supply of perforated 20 centime stamps to the provincial offices is noticed.

Soon after the re-opening of Paris in February, the employment of the old stamps with effigy of the Emperor, recommenced. In our April number (which went to press just after the outbreak of the 18th March) it is stated that "nearly all the letters which arrived in the departments were franked with the old imperial labels." Now, this and other statements were made on the authority of a constant contributor to these pages,—a resident in France,—who is em-

ployed in a large commercial house which has correspondents in all parts of that country; they may, therefore, be implicitly depended on, and we specially refer to him, because, with respect to this very question of the issue of stamps by the Commune, he is well able to supply valuable negative proof.

Towards the end of April, he heard a rumour to the effect that the Commune had issued stamps which alone would be accepted in payment of the local Parisian rate, and he at once wrote to a gentleman in Paris, with whom, thanks to the help of engine-drivers, his firm was in daily communication, asking him if there was any truth in the statements. The latter replied as follows:—

With respect to postage stamps; up to the present time I have obtained them at the head office, which is occupied by the Commune. I have never received any other than those bearing the Emperor's profile. I went to-day to inquire about the new stamps, and I received for answer, that none would be issued until the old stock was exhausted.

A notice is placarded up, that letters from the departments, brought in no matter how, and flung into the pillar-boxes for delivery, should be prepaid by a ten centime stamp only, or otherwise unpleasant consequences might follow.

The date of this letter was the 29th April, and a little more than three weeks afterwards the insurrection was quelled. It can hardly have been in these last three weeks that new stamps were issued, and indeed, M. Lambry, in another part of his narrative, leaves it to be inferred that they were in use before the 30th April.

To account for the existence of a sufficient stock of imperial stamps at the Communist post-office is not difficult, if, as stated by *The Morning Post*, the new *employés* in Paris, prior to the 11th April, had been sent round to the tobacco shops, to collect all the stamps that could be found in them. Considerable quantities must have been thus discovered, for it is a remarkable fact, that during the first siege, no imperial stamps, so far as we know, were used, every letter we have ever seen from the besieged city being prepaid with the resuscitated Republican labels. When the insurrection broke out, the post-master-general took off to Versailles all the newly-printed supply with the effigy of the

republic, and the Commune was glad to fall back on the retailers' supply of imperial stamps, which, in consequence of the Republican *furor*, had been held over during the Prussian investment.

The asserted issue of new stamps becomes, however, less credible than ever. M. Lambry does not simply say that a fresh supply of the old Republic stamps was printed off from existing plates or casts. He speaks of making fresh ones,* of finding engravers, of the imperfection of the first plates, and of the moderate success of the later ones. But if new stamps of the 1848 type had been engraved, certain striking differences—the result of inferior workmanship—would show themselves, and some variations in colour would betray them; no such stamps, however, have been seen, unless they are the so-called forgeries to which vague reference was made last summer by a Parisian paper, in a paragraph which we translated. At any rate, they are quite unknown, and we do not expect them to turn up now.

There is another point which is very convincing against M. Lambry's accuracy. He asserts that stamps of all kinds, from one to eighty centimes were struck, and further on he puts forth the fact of their being perforated, as a reason for the issue of unperforated stamps by the Versaillists. But no one has ever seen perforated 1, 2, 4, 5, or 80 centime stamps of the Republic. These values exist only in the Bordeaux imperforate series. This pretty well settles the matter, and further comment is hardly necessary. Still, we may observe that the absence, rather than the presence of perforation, would have been likely to characterise the issue of stamps by the Commune, seeing that the work of perforation is a very delicate one, requiring such nice adjustment of the machine and the paper as the unskilled Communist workmen could hardly have attained.

How M. Lambry can have been so misled as to state that stamps were printed and issued by the Commune, we cannot understand; that he should do so is one more

* "On se servait de ceux-là (the stamps collected from the retailers) tout en se préparant d'en frapper d'autres."

proof of the slight knowledge which postal *employés* possess of matters which are not within their own immediate department. As a contribution to postal lore, M. Lambry's narrative is valueless, and, perhaps, hardly worth the trouble of dissection; but the prevention of errors on the subject hereafter, will, we hope, result from this examination of the details whilst they are fresh in the memory.

A JAPANESE STATE PAPER.

It is but a few years since the first Japanese ambassadors arrived in Europe. Their country had been for many ages civilized after the oriental fashion, but of all, or nearly all, the ameliorating innovations recently introduced into European life they were ignorant. Their knowledge of the habits of the western nations was derived solely from the information disseminated by our own representatives on their visit to the Japanese empire; but, superficial as it must necessarily have been, it was sufficient to incite in them and in their sovereign a desire to learn more, and to profit by what they might learn. On their arrival in Europe, as they came across new inventions and institutions, they carefully took note of them, and on their return home the Japanese government lost no time in turning their observations to some practical benefit.

Among the institutions of which the excellence most forcibly struck them, that of state post-offices and their machinery must certainly be numbered, and the result is now shown in the establishment of a regular postal service in Japan. We recently had the pleasure of chronicling the emission of a series of postage stamps by the government as a necessary corollary to this measure, and we are now able to place before our readers a translation of the document in which the Japanese council of state informs the public of the postal facilities which it will henceforth enjoy. This document, we may say without undue enthusiasm, is written in a truly noble spirit, showing as it does such a statesmanlike appreciation of the benefits of inter-communication, and such unprejudiced willingness to adopt that system whereby

alone those benefits can be secured. The following is the text.*

The emission of postage stamps is not an isolated indication of progress, but one of a series. A railway is being made several hundred miles in length, and the Mikado himself attended the opening of the first section. Tramways are being laid down. First among foreign nations, the Japanese are following the English example in forming a society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The government is declaring for free trade, and has resolved, when the treaties are revised next year, to expunge the prohibition on the export of rice. Lastly, as a necessary preparation for entering into competition for the world's trade, the coinage has been revised, and, as stated by a correspondent in our pages a short time since, the unit of currency is the dollar, or rather a coin

* Copied *verbatim* from an English newspaper, published in Japan, and obligingly communicated to us by a correspondent.

NOTIFICATION.

It is of the greatest importance for public and private objects to facilitate as far as possible communication by post. Hitherto this service has been entirely left to private enterprise, so that great delay has frequently occurred in the transmission of letters. Sometimes it has required more than ten days for the letter to arrive at a distance of a hundred miles or so, while in other cases there was the fear that letters never reached their destination at all.

The charge for letters required to be forwarded with expedition has been very high, and the poorer classes in remote parts of the country have been entirely shut out from mutual intercourse. From the difficulty of learning the condition of affairs and the market prices of produce in different parts, it has often happened that groundless rumours have been spread abroad, and the public mind has been misled thereby.

The knowledge of these facts has excited our profoundest commiseration.

It is therefore our intention gradually to inaugurate a general system of posts on all the high roads of the empire, so that there may be intercommunication of thought between the most remote points, and the state of affairs throughout the country be ascertained with ease and quickness, so that all classes may be able to have their letters forwarded with the greatest possible expedition. As an experiment only, posts will be dispatched daily from Yedo to Kyoto in 62 hours, and to Osaka in 78 hours, beginning from the first day of the 3rd month (April 20th). The system will admit of letters being forwarded, not only to those places, but to all the towns on the Tokaido, to all villages within ten or twelve miles of them, and to the provinces of Ise and Mino.

For the information of persons desirous of availing themselves of the post, directions are given below.

First Month, 1871.

(Signed), COUNCIL OF STATE.

identical in value therewith, called the *yan*. A supply of yan, half yan, and quarter yan silver pieces has just been struck in the United States, bearing for design, on the obverse, sun and rays; wreath below, three flowers above; on the reverse, the imperial dragon. Besides this, the Continental Bank Note Company, of New York, has just completed the engraving of plates for two denominations of Japanese paper money—one yan and five yans, which latter event, we may in conclusion say, points to probabilities with regard to future postal emissions; and we venture to predict that the next series will be engraved in the United States, in which case we may find the Newfoundland stamps rivalled by their Japanese *confères*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURCHARGED INSCRIPTION ON THE CHARKOFF LOCAL.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I notice that on page 19 of the February number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, it is said that the black inscription in a linear oblong, placed diagonally on the Charkoff stamp, is a postmark. This you will find is not the case; I have received several specimens that have never gone through the post, marked in this manner. Hoping that this information may be of some use,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Forest Hill. W. J. H.

THE PROVISIONAL 5 c. STAMPS OF CHILI.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The provisional 5 c. stamps of Chili (or, in other words, the half of a 10 c. *diagonally divided*), if I mistake not, are mentioned in none of the stamp catalogues or magazines. Surely they are just as worthy of being collected as the surcharged stamps of other countries.

The principal cause of the issue of these provisionals was a scarcity of 5 c. stamps at one time,—in 1854 I think,—and up to the present day they have been used (though sparingly) from time to time. I shall explain why it is still necessary to use these stamps now-a-days.

I cannot say how things are managed in England, but in Chili, in every town large enough to have a regular post-office, there are also a number of agencies, or *estancos*, as they are called (generally tobacconists' shops) where stamps may be bought in quantity. From these the post-office supplies itself; but now and again it happens, through carelessness, that the small stock of stamps is allowed to be exhausted before anyone thinks of renewing it. As soon as this is discovered, somebody is dispatched in hot haste to buy some stamps,* and, after ten minutes or so, generally returns with them. Sometimes, however, it happens that all the *estancos*, say, within the radius of a mile or so, have not a single 5 c. stamp on hand! Under these circumstances, the only way to get out of the difficulty is by cutting a 10 c.

* This is of almost daily occurrence in Valparaiso; people have to wait 5, 10, or even 15 minutes, before they can have their letters stamped.

stamp into two triangles, and valuing them at 5 c. each. Though the consumption of 5 c. stamps is far greater than that of the other two values, still they are not kept in proportionate quantities (in the post-office of course); the former are exhausted before, perhaps, one-eighth part of the others is sold.

Valparaiso.

L. W. M.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE DECCAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—From time to time the readers of the philatelic magazines have perused the latest intelligence with regard to the stamps of the Deccan; and in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., page 122, under the head of "A Batch of Novelties," Mr. Pemberton describes these stamps, and, as far as possible, makes up for his defective acquaintance with the Sanscrit, Persi-Arabic, and Persian languages by his knowledge of philatelic matters. Perhaps he will not object to my pointing out a few inaccuracies in his paper.

Introduced into the centre of his lists of the Deccan stamps is the following:—"In each value the frame and ground-work differ slightly; the centre inscription (in Persian characters) is on a different ground in each."

For the benefit of such collectors as are interested in the Deccan postage stamps, I am able to put before them the following facts:—Of the inscription on the 8 annas stamp (an engraving of which has been given at vol. 9, p. 122), the words not in English are entirely in Persi-Arabic characters. On the top of the stamp the reading is POST STAMP, in English characters; underneath is POST STAMP, in Persi-Arabic characters.

The centre-piece was so indistinct (being printed black on a dark ground) that it was illegible, although minutely studied through a powerful microscope. A mistake was also made in the right character of the centre-piece, which did not render it more distinct.

The left-hand piece, just below the centre circle, is 8 annas, in English; and on the right hand, in Persi-Arabic, is the word *sonat*, pronounced *sonot*, the literal meaning of which is pure, unalloyed. No word in English could be accurately used in translating it, except "sterling." Below, the inscription is also in Persi-Arabic, and although there was much difficulty in making it out (owing to some mistake in the printing), it is supposed to be *post stamp* or *postage stamp*. The reason for the difference in the character of the upper inscriptions and the lower is, that the upper is printed *in full*, while the lower is in what is termed the *shikūstū* (pronounced shikustar); hand, or the broken hand. This peculiar style of writing does not exactly correspond to our short-hand.

During the Indian mutiny the letters which were written by the native allies to the British officers were nearly always (for the sake of brevity and celerity) written in the *shikūstū* hand; and the officers, not all of them then being acquainted with this peculiar hand, were put to much inconvenience, and obliged to take into their pay natives who understood the writing. In Persi-Arabic there are no vowels, and, therefore, it is very difficult in writing the language to give a good translation, with the proper signs, &c., still retained in the Persi-Arabic dialect.

The Deccan stamps termed "the skeleton issue" are much more roughly executed; altogether so much so, that only a small portion of the stamp could be deciphered, and that not with any degree of accuracy.

Yours obediently,

Saxmundham.

F. CAVELL.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The American Journal of Philately.—The last two numbers are better than their immediate predecessors. The one for March is principally remarkable for the notice it contains of a Confederate local, of which the only known specimen was recently discovered by Mr. Scott in Mr. Philbrick's unrivalled collection. It was issued at Madison, Florida, early in January, 1861, and, therefore, considerably before the actual outbreak of hostilities; its issue, however, arose out of circumstances connected with the then tone of feeling between north and south, as the postmaster, by whom the stamp was made—a Mr. E. J. Perry—has lucidly explained in a letter to Mr. Scott. Small change became scarce at that period, and the stock of United States stamps was also exhausted. Mr. Perry, who had Confederate leanings, was loath to apply for a fresh supply of stamps, and preferred to issue the stamp in question "for the purpose of making change." They were "sold in quantities to the business part of the community," and, says the postmaster, "any letter found in the letter-box with my stamp on it had evidence of having been paid for, and was accordingly stamped, 'paid in money,' in accordance with the laws regulating the United States post-offices, and charged as paid in money in the way bills forwarded to the distributing offices." The stamp was truly a postage stamp, but only in a limited sense; it was evidence of prepayment to the receiving postmaster, but not to the distributing office, which was guided only by the handstamp "Paid." In this respect it resembled the stamps on letters from one country to another. The delivering office does not take any account of the stamps on them, which may either overpay or underpay the letter; but if the magic letters, PD., signifying "paid," are on them, they are delivered, even though they bear no stamp at all.

The Madison stamp caused a certain excitement in the northern states when it was noticed on letters from that town, and it formed the subject of an article in the *New York Herald*, in consequence of which the postal department sent an official to Madison

to inquire into the cause of its emission. It is exceedingly unpretentious in design, consisting, as it does, only of a transverse oblong frame composed of fourteen type-set rose ornaments, within which is the value, 3, on the top line, and CENTS on the second. In the single known copy the word cents is misprinted CNETS. The impression is in dark bronze, probably originally yellow-bronze, or gold, on blue wove foolscap writing paper. Mr. Scott justly characterises it as the "first issued, best authenticated, and scarcest Confederate provisional."

In the March number the only other prominent article is that on the New Granadine stamps, which gives great promise. In the article on newly-issued stamps, two errors in illustration occur; the current La Guaira, with J. A. 2. and 2. in centre, is given as the design of the Western Australian threepenny, and the cut of the 10 para Egyptian is printed in a rough approximation to the colour of the 5 paras.

The April number contains no original matter of a very interesting nature, unless the illustrated description of two doubtful Confederate local types—Athens, Ga., and type-printed Macon—can be so considered. The "Reviews of Philatelic Publications" are too brief; the sneer at Mr. Pemberton's commendation of his own writings comes with doubtful grace from a journal which has frequently and unblushingly extolled the contributions which have filled its pages; and the objection that none of the stamp journals gave notice in advance of Mr. Scott's auction sale of stamps, is refreshing; we are not aware that any of the publishers of any stamp magazine are in the habit of inserting the advertisements of other dealers gratis.

Le Timbre-Poste for March contains a short but interesting article, copied from a German paper, on the Japanese numerals. From the manner in which the characters are arranged, the editor deduces that the stamps should be mounted with the dragons' heads downwards, the entwined and contorted tails forming the top of the design. The remaining contents are not specially remarkable, and the wit of the narrative entitled "In Search of a Postage Stamp" is hidden. The April number is fully occupied by the "Chronicle," and a further

instalment of Dr. Magnus's monograph on envelope stamps. In the former article we observe that the editor states he expects to be able to prove that "all the authentic details," furnished to us by M. Panopoulo, relative to the Morton stamps, "are but a pure invention on his (M. P.'s) part." The accusation thus made is a serious one, and if not thoroughly supported by facts, the journal which makes it will certainly fall into the utmost discredit. We hope it is not true, and are divided between our confidence in M. Panopoulo, who has been known to our publishers for years, and the painful doubt which so positive a charge, coming from a respectable organ, is naturally calculated to create.

The Philatelist.—The March number contains the first article on telegraph stamps which has appeared in the English philatelic press. It is continued in the April number, and the first instalment of a catalogue of telegraphic emissions is given in the latter. The stamps mentioned are decidedly not of a very interesting character, and we should not care about going out of our way to obtain them, preferring to reserve a cordial reception for the government labels.

In the Spnd papers the forgeries of British Guiana, 1860, Turks Islands, Spanish Official, and Chili are treated of. For the first named, the inscription RETIMUSQUE (instead of PETIMUSQUE) indicates a forgery; in the third, the absence of the pomegranate from the front of the shield is condemnatory; the other two are such inferior imitations that, like vice, they "to be hated need but to be seen."

Mr. Atlee commences in the March number an article entitled, "Notes on Postmarks as Aids to the Detection of Forgeries," but we fear that, with all his known ability, he will find it difficult to enliven so dull a subject, and we doubt the possibility of its being treated in a practically useful way for detective purposes. In order that a list of postmarks may be of real assistance, it will be necessary to describe and engrave every postmark, and to be able to affirm that every postmark is described, otherwise the notice of some and the omission of others, may prove a stumbling-block to beginners. If this cannot be done—and we do not think it

can be—it would be well to give the work a more modest scope, and notice *only* the forged obliterations, pointing out in what particulars they differ from the genuine.

In the "Correspondence" of the two numbers the postal value of the Egyptian officials is commented on. Their exact position is easily fixed by a reference to the practice of the Italian post-office, on whose system that of the Egyptian postal service is based, the head of the Egyptian office being an Italian, and its official documents being in his language. In Italy circular labels have long been in use, and are put on the mail-bags after they are made up, and probably on official documents. For a full description of them, we refer our readers to p. 71 of our fourth volume, in which also will be found an engraving of the type then—but, as we now think, incorrectly—supposed to be the one adopted. We believe the design now in use bears only the words AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE ITALIANE, in a plain circle. The Egyptian labels seem, like the Italian, to be something *less* than postage stamps, and *more* than office wafers. Found on a letter or packet, they are the most visible proof of its official origin, like the words, "On Her Majesty's Service," on our own official envelopes; but, like these latter, they are probably accompanied by some stamp or signature, which alone carries with it the franking power.

The Philatetical Journal.—Both the March and April numbers are replete with readable matter, and the latter exceeds by four pages its usual dimensions. In the "Cream of the Magazines" we find nothing particular to report on, except the editor's objection to the continued notice in our columns of inverted watermarks,—which, in duty to ourselves, we must say is due to our respect for our correspondents' opinions and studies,—and his mystification as to the true design of the Chilian post card, owing to the widely differing engravings in our own and the Brighton journal. That he may be in no further doubt, we beg to say that we delayed the publication of our February number, to give our printer time to procure from an Edinburgh type-founder the border-pieces necessary for the setting of the card, and

our representation is, consequently, almost literally a facsimile of the original.

The continuation of Mr. Atlee's article on the Hawaiian stamps is highly instructive, and we shall have occasion, in another part of the number, to refer to his opinion on the copies marked "specimen." Following Mr. Atlee's paper comes a short notice, by Senor M. P. de Figuerola, of a hitherto "unchron-icled Spanish stamp"—a label prepared by a certain Senor Castell, author of a work intended to teach, in an accurate manner, the writing of addresses of letters. This pamphlet was approved of by the late queen as a work of public utility, and the post-master-general ordered it to be sent to all the primary schools in Spain. Subsequently, in consideration of its value, the privilege of free transmission through the post for six months was accorded to Senor Castell, who, to avail himself of it, printed a stamp bearing the title of his work,—CARTILLA POSTAL DE ESPANA in an oval frame, enclosing the representation of an envelope, the whole on a ground of upright lines, and printed in black on rather dark blue paper.

"The Lithographed Series of the French Republic" is the title of a very interesting paper, by "A Parisian Collector," in which three types of the Bordeaux 20 c. blue are specified; the first, a very coarse impression, is distinguishable from the fact, that the top of the circular pearl border is nearly the sixteenth-of-an-inch from the external frame; the second and commonest type is better drawn, and in the frame on the left upper side, there are "four etruscan frets, and the commencement of a fifth;" in the third type the commencement of the fifth is wanting. These are the most prominent characteristics of three different drawings of the same design. The first type, and ultramarine copies of the second and third, are the rarest, and "an unobliterated copy is worth something more than its weight in gold."

"Our Black List" exposes the dealings of Mr. Zechmeyer, of Nürnberg; Messrs. Goldney & Wilts, and Charles & Lewis, of Stroud, and a batch of Glasgow innocents, to whom we hope to have the pleasure of referring in our next.

In the article on "Novelties," the Falk-

land Islands stamp is given as one of them; but if the editor will turn to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., p. 120, he will find the type described and figured there.

The reviewer of philatelic publications calls attention to the practice of guaranteeing the American local reprints and forgeries as genuine. Our own publishers, whilst they have hitherto relied on the repeated, we might almost say continual, exposure in this journal of the true value of such labels as indicating, that if they offered them for sale at all, it was only to meet the requirements of collectors who are desirous of cheaply filling the spaces allotted in various stamp albums for these locals—have decided on adding an explicit statement at the foot of their future advertisements of such stamps to the effect, that the labels sold under the title of American and Hamburg locals are not *bona-fide* stamps.

The April number of our Birmingham *confrère* contains a good article on the Petersburg (Virginia) stamp, and exposes an attempt recently made to palm off an imitation as being a third type of the rare original. The counterfeit specimens, seven in number, which have been under examination, are attached to the letters on which they were supposed to have passed through the post, but the seven letters, ostensibly from (in all) three different firms, turn out, upon close inspection, to be all in one and the same handwriting! We have not space to go into the details, but the result of the investigation is to render the fraud very apparent, and the writer of the article deserves great credit for the sagacity he has shown in unmasking it.

The remaining contents are, "To be Sold by Auction"—a commentary on the recent sale; the completion of the Rev. R. B. Earée's instructive article on the "Stamps of La Guaira;" "Californian Locals"—a list of new discoveries, consisting of information of an "essential" character which requires a little dilution to make it readable; "Novelties;" "Bogus Novelties;" "The Turkish Stamps"—a very lucid monograph, by "A Parisian Collector;" "The Stamps of Trinidad"—composed principally of a much required reference list to the stamps of this colony; "Our Black List;" "Facetiæ Philatelicæ,"

which does not improve much; "Reviews" and "Correspondence." From the Trinidad article we extract the following reference to the "Too-Late" stamps:—

All the stamps of the present issue are to be found with the words **TOO LATE** surcharged in black or red ink across the stamp, and sometimes with it twice, so as to form a kind of cross. As we believe few collectors hold the same opinion about these stamps, we will give ours, which, we think, will settle the matter. The theory that the words surcharged are simply a postmark is wrong. We have seen whole sheets of some of the values so surcharged perfectly new, and with gum at the back. The five-shilling stamps are to be purchased in the island surcharged for sixpence, which is the rate charged for too late letters. We therefore suppose that those values are surcharged from time to time of which they have most in stock, and that once so surcharged they are sold at a uniform rate irrespective of their facial value. Thus the too-late stamps really do prepay too-late letters.

Does not the writer mean to say that the sixpence is the *fee* or *fine* charged in addition to the postage on too late letters?

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XIX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Moldavia.

(Continued from page 56.)

FIRST SERIES.

ADDENDUM.—In the preceding paper I refrained from attempting to decide which of Dr. Magnus's five types were the genuine, because the decision would be attended with comparatively slight practical result; but for the benefit of collectors, who may desire to have information on this point, I may mention that the weight of opinion is in favour of the genuineness of the stamps of the first types on *laid* paper. Of this type and paper three values are known, viz., the 27, 54, and 108 paras: the 81 paras has still to be discovered. This is the verdict of Mr. Philbrick, of "A Parisian Collector," and other authorities, in which I beg leave to concur.

SECOND SERIES.

We have seen that the first series of stamps was issued in consequence of the adoption of a complicated system of rates, under which the postage was to be ascertained according, not only to weight, but to distance.

It was no sooner put in force than it was found to work very unsatisfactorily. It gave the maximum of trouble to the public and the officials, combined with the minimum of benefit. On the 17th September, 1858, a memorial setting forth its disadvantages was addressed to the Administrative Council, by the finance minister, J. A. Cantacuzin—(probably a relative of Prince Demetrius, by whom the first investigation into the postal system was made), Minister Balche, whose name figures below the decrees relating to the first series, having meanwhile retired from office. Mr. J. A. Cantacuzin, in this document, of which the translation is subjoined, recommends the introduction of a rate, independent alike of weight and distance, to be fixed at 40 paras for ordinary, and 80 paras for, as I understand it, registered letters. This would seem an odd arrangement in a more civilised country, where advantage would be taken of a uniform tax on all ordinary letters, irrespective of weight, to send through the post bulky communications of inconvenient size; but the Moldavian finance minister, who would seem to have foreseen the possibility of an objection of this kind to his proposal, says, in the Minute in question, that there is very little difference in the weight of letters, herein evidently relying on the primitive habits of correspondence among the Moldavians.

The approval of the proposition of the finance minister by the Administrative Council, is signified by Minute No. 4288, addressed to the minister by the secretary of state, and the 1st November, 1858, is thereby fixed as the date of emission of the new series. Then follow two finance office Minutes, the first requiring the stamp office superintendent to arrange with the postmaster for the printing of 20,000 stamps of the same design as those to be suppressed; and the second addressed to the postmaster informing him of the change in the rates, and requesting him to take the necessary measures with the stamp superintendent for the printing of the above mentioned quantity. The reproduction of these documents is hardly necessary, but translations are annexed of the letter of 18th October, 1858, from the

stamp superintendent to the finance minister, and the minister's reply of the 19th, which together establish that the 20,000 stamps ordered were to be made up as follows:—

12,000 of the 40 paras.

5,000 „ 80 „

3,000 „ 5 „

and that the transmission of the dies was accompanied with the usual formalities.

The series of documents is completed by the finance Minute, No. 10,283, of 27th October, which advises the postmaster of the forwarding to him of a first stock of 10,816 stamps of the three values, and it concludes with the following sentence, "Notice is at the same time given you that the *employé* charged by the minister with the delivery is Mr. M. Figa, to whom the post-office will please furnish a detailed account of the stamps previously received, and hand over such old stamps as may remain,"—a request which, I may parenthetically remark, strengthens the arguments used in my last paper in reference to the return into stock of all unemployed stamps of the first series.

The documents which treat of the second series have not the same importance as those relating to the first, inasmuch as there are fewer doubtful points connected with the second. There is only one thing to which it is worth while to call attention, and that is the absence of any direct authorization of the issue of the 5 para stamp. In the finance minister's report of the 17th September, he does, it is true, say that as a matter of course the new letter rates will not affect the charge for packets, which latter "will continue to be subjected to the tariff established by the regulations now in force;" but that is all. In his minutes of the 13th October, he only speaks of 40 and 80 para stamps; and it is not until we get to the stamp superintendent's letter of the 18th October, that we find any mention of the 5 para, and from that letter it would appear that the issue of stamps of this value was decided on by the postmaster. We cannot discover what were "the regulations then in force" relative to the postage of journals, but we are left to assume that prior even to the issue of the first series the rate was 5 paras. This question,

however, is of importance only from the historical point of view, and pending its solution, it must suffice for us to know that the 5 para was issued together with the 40 and 80 para stamps on the 1st November, 1858.

The series continued in use until the 1st January, 1862, a period of over three years. We possess no documents fixing the total number of stamps issued during that time.

The batch of official papers furnished to *Le Timbre-Poste* closes with the issue of the series, but we cull the following information from the article in which the correspondent of the Belgian paper sums up the history of the early omissions.

The public, but little accustomed to the use of stamps, did not more freely employ the stamps of the second series than those of the first; therefore, there was never any occasion for the issue of sub-types. The correspondence was for the greater part confided to the Russian and Austrian postal services, established at the respective consulates of these states, and carrying even the internal correspondence of the country. Prepayment was effected either in money or by means of Russian or Austrian stamps.

A careful consideration of all the facts will show that this correspondent's assertion, that no sub-types were made—in other words, that the designs were not re-engraved—has much in its favour. Assuming that the stamps of the second series were not more freely used than those of the first, the number employed would be about 40,000 per annum, or 120,000 in all, which we might roughly subdivide into 60,000 of the 40 paras, 40,000 of the 80 paras, and 20,000 of the 5 paras. This would not be an extravagant number to produce from metallic dies, especially if it be considered that the impression was by hand and not by machine, and, therefore, much less forcible. Still the possibility of the designs having been re-engraved certainly exists, and must be taken into account in the attempt to form an estimate of the value of the known types. These, as defined by Dr. Magnus, are four in number, and as it is by no means unlikely that many of my readers may possess or receive the offer of stamps of this series, it is worth while to discuss the four types more or less in detail. Before doing so, I must take leave to acknowledge my obligations to the accomplished philatelist, known to the public by the modest *nom de plume* of "A Parisian Collector," who, by

the information and specimens he has kindly sent me, has materially aided and guided me in the study of these stamps.

Of the first type the annexed engravings, which originally illustrated Dr. Magnus's paper, are rough representations. The noticeable point in connection with the 5 paras is, that the horns are *nearly upright*. The most distinctive feature of the other two stamps is, that the star on



each is *six-pointed*, *large*, and tolerably *regular*, coupled with the fact that the paper on which they are printed is thin *pelure*, white or bluish. This type is unquestionably genuine. There are many known copies, all bearing orthodox obliterations. These latter, it may here be mentioned, are of different shapes—round, with date in centre, the name of the town in upper half, and MOLDAVIA in the lower; round, with FRANCO above, name of town below, and an ornamental bar across the middle; oblong, with a pointed projection at ends, FRANCO in upper, and name of town in lower half; and oval, with the same dis-



position of the lettering, and "No....." in the middle. There is one peculiarity noticeable in all,



that is, that the name of the town *always* appears, whilst the obliterations on the doubtful types of this and the first series, bear the word FRANCO only.

The second type of the 5 paras is peculiar to that value. Like the first it has a six-pointed star, but it will be noticed that the horns, instead of being nearly upright, are strongly curved. This is the feature to be borne in mind for purposes of comparison. The genuineness of this type is exceedingly doubtful, and I shall not be far out in pronouncing it to be a forgery. It is, however, one of the small class of dangerous imitations, and in this it differs from the 40 and 80 paras, hereafter to be noticed. Except that there is a somewhat suspicious

clearness in the printing as contrasted with the genuine, there is very little indeed in its appearance to raise a doubt in the mind of an inexperienced collector. Our engravings, in which prominence is given to the salient point, the shape of the horns, should render detection easy.

The second type of the 40 and 80 paras is shared by the two values. Representations of the arms are annexed.



The most noticeable characteristic is the *six-pointed* star. Obliterated copies of this type are not known, and this



is a most suspicious circumstance, tending strongly to show that the unused specimens, like the spurious copies of the first series, were made for sale to collectors only; for it is not unreasonable to suppose that if genuine, used copies of at least one of the values would be forthcoming. This type is consequently regarded as of *very* questionable value.

The third type is peculiar to the 80 paras. The star is six-pointed, but small, and its points of difference from the first type will be easily recognised on comparison with the engraving of the same above given. The figures resemble those of the first type. Mr. Philbrick possesses an obliterated copy of this type, which is perhaps the only one known. He believes in its genuineness, and the general feeling is in favour of the authenticity of this type, notwithstanding the lack of used copies.



Of the stamps of the fourth type, Dr. Magnus says: "If they are not proved false, there is at least a strong presumption against their authenticity;" and this dictum on the part of the learned doctor has never been contested. The star on this fourth type is six-pointed; but, whereas in the first type the word SCRISOREI commences and terminates at an *equal* distance from the border (3 mill.), in this fourth type it commences at 1½ mill., and terminates at 3 mill; moreover, the paper of this latter "is not the same as for the other types, but opaque, thicker, and showing some traces of being laid." Placed beside the genuine stamps,

the forged are immediately condemned. They do not resemble the genuine in colour, paper, nor even in size; but bear on their faces that suspicious look which is so noticeable in most spurious productions.

Thus, then, the opinion of competent judges may be summed up as follows:—1st type, genuine; 2nd type, probably false; 3rd type, probably genuine; 4th type, false. Adopting Dr. Magnus's classification, the colours and papers of the first three types are as follows:—

FIRST TYPE.—

A. Bluish *pelure* paper.

40 paras blue.

80 „ wine-red.

B. Transparent *pelure* paper.

5 paras black (paper a little bluish).

40 „ blue.

80 „ vermilion-red.

C. Dull white or yellowish *pelure* paper.

5 paras black.

40 „ dark blue.

80 „ bright red.

THIRD TYPE.—White *pelure* paper.

80 paras vermilion-red.

80 „ dark red.

SECOND TYPE.—White *pelure* paper.

5 paras black.

40 „ pale blue, bright blue.

80 „ bright red.

The rarest among these are the 40 and 80 paras of the first type, on bluish paper. Dr. Magnus asserts that the same paper was used for the second type of the three values, and for the third type of the 80. This tells very much for or against the genuineness of both types, accordingly as the inference be drawn, from the third to the second, or from the second to the third.

ADDENDUM.

Moldavian Finance Ministry.—No. 8823.

Jassy, 17 Sept., 1858.

To the Honourable Administrative Council.

As the honourable Council is aware, the interior letter postage, according to the new tariff, has been fixed at the rate of 27 paras for a single-weight letter for a distance of one to eight posts: for letters with receipt [registered?] the rate is double; and the said rates are col-

lected by means of stamps of the required value, applied according to the weight of the letters.

Seeing that the application of this system, based on the distance and the weight, causes very great complications, not only for the public, which, from neglecting to ascertain the weight of the letters, is exposed to surcharges which are sometimes enormous; but also for the officials, who are obliged to weigh and keep an account of all the letters.

The minister, taking the foregoing into consideration, and also the fact, that in foreign countries the postage is not based on the distance, judges it necessary to establish in this country a rate independent of distance and of weight (which, for letters, shows but slight differences); and to fix at 40 paras the rate for each ordinary letter, and at 80 paras the rate for those with voucher. As a matter of course, the said rate to be applicable to letters, and not to packets, which latter will continue to be subjected to the tariff established by the regulations at present in force.

In consequence, the honourable Council is requested to be good enough to take into consideration the present proposition, and to sanction it if it be thought proper, so that stamps may be made and employed to carry it into effect.

(Signed) The Finance Minister,

J. A. CANTACUZIN.

Stamp Office Superintendent.—No. 88.

Jassy, 18 Oct., 1858.

To the Hon. the Finance Minister.

The Post Office, by a Minute, No. 2629, informs me that conformably to an order, No. 9741, which it has received from the hon. minister, it has been decided to print 20,000 postage stamps for the letter and journal service, viz.:—

12,000 of 40 paras.

5,000 „ 80 „

3,000 „ 5 „

I have, therefore, the honour respectfully to request the hon. minister to give me the necessary order for the fabrication of the above stamps, and to hand me the dies, informing me at the same time if I am to deliver the stamps to the above mentioned office, or to the hon. minister.

(Signed) A. DUCA.

Moldavian Finance Ministry.—No. 10046.

Jassy, 19 Oct., 1858.

To the Stamp Office Superintendent.

In reply to your Minute, No. 88, the Finance Department informs you that the employment of the 40, 80, and 5 para stamps having to commence on the 1st November next, you will have to print 20,000 of the said stamps, as you were advised by its order, No. 9740, viz.:—

12,000 of 40 paras.

5,000 „ 80 „

3,000 „ 5 „

As soon as they are ready you will deliver them to the Finance Department, which will hand them over to the Post-office.

You will receive herewith the dies you have asked for, which you will please return with the result produced.

(Signed) The Finance Minister,

J. A. CANTACUZIN.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—We have to thank our esteemed correspondent, Senor M. P. de Figueroa, for the following extract from *La Política*, one of the leading Madrid journals :

The falsification of postage stamps is now conducted on so large a scale, and is causing such a considerable loss to the treasury, that the finance minister has appointed a committee, composed of Messrs. Don Luis Marchioni, royal engraver-general; Don Juan Estrach, principal engraver to the hydrographical dépôt; Don Vicente Palmaroli and Don Eugenio Julio, engravers to the national stamp-printing office; and Don Eduardo Fernandez Pescador, member of the Royal Academy of St. Ferdinand, Madrid—charged with the duty of proposing a system of stamp printing which shall offer the greatest difficulties to forgers, taking into consideration the great advances made in the preparation of chemical reactors, and in photography, and shall at same time be a cheap system.

According to our Belgian contemporary, which has also had intelligence of the appointment of this commission, its labours have resulted in a decision that the stamps shall be printed in three colours. This is the resource of printers who are conscious of their own deficiencies. Either the instruments necessary to the production of really fine engravings, or the workmen capable of manipulating such instruments, must be lacking.

The first consequence of this decision appears to have been the withdrawal of the finely cut type of which we reproduced the engraving last month. However, as the announcement in *Le Timbre-Poste* is not very clear on this point, we prefer to give it *verbatim*.

A type, with effigy of the king, submitted by Messrs. Alegre and Alabern had been adopted and paid for, but the latter engraver has certainly received instructions to prepare another type, with the effigy of the king, but in profile. The values will be 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 25, 40, 50 cent de peseta, and 1, 4, 10, and 19 pesetas.

Thus the present series, whose design leaves so much to be desired, would appear to have received a fresh lease of life. Meanwhile, however, the recently engraved design, of which we gave an illustration in our February number, is being utilised for Cuba, and but for certain changes in the Madrid stamp-printing office, the series would be now in use. There is also "in the press" a new design for the Philippine Islands,

consisting of a florid portrait of the king—three-quarter face—in an upright rectangle, with CORREOS above and FILIPINAS below; blank labels being left at the sides for the value. The execution, it is said, leaves much to be desired; as for the portrait, it has little in common with that on its Cuban *compère*, and if the reign of King Amadeus be prolonged, we shall probably witness the appearance of as many different "likenesses" of him as there are of his predecessor, Queen Isabella. The design, as far as we can judge from a woodcut, though plain, is far from being devoid of merit. The values are said to be four in number:—62½, 125, 250, and 500 cent—esimos (?).

M. Moens has been favoured with a sight of an envelope from Cuba, marked *Cuba*, 20 *Février*, 1872, prepaid by means of a Paris-printed perforated 40 c. French republic and two imperial French laureated 80 c. stamps. The obliteration consists of a series of dots, disposed in the form of a lozenge, with an anchor in the centre. Our Belgian friend is mystified by the appearance of these stamps on a Cuban letter, and, we confess, with some reason. It is true the obliteration is known to be that of a French post-office, in *partibus infidelibus*. It has been noted in this magazine as having been used for letters passing through the French office in Japan; but the question arises,—is there any French office in Cuba? To this we cannot reply; but it is very strange that a Paris-printed French stamp should come from Cuba twenty days after the reopening of Paris, in which city alone were they used during the siege.

We are indebted to Senor P. de Figueroa for communication of another member of the numerous band of Spanish official frank stamps. It has been only recently issued, is printed a bright blue, and for a handstamp is unusually clear. It is circular, with the revised and corrected arms in the centre, the Savoy cross replacing the Bourbon lilies on the escutcheon, and round the border is the inscription CUARTO MILITAR DE S.M.—GEFE, that is to say,—Military Household of His Majesty—Chief (Qy., head quarters). It is curious to note that in a production of this kind an orthographical error should

occur; but it appears that the correct spelling of the word chief is *Jefe*, and the blunder made in commencing it with a *G* seems very ridiculous to a Castilian eye.

We must not omit to notice a report, originating with *El Averiguador*, a good authority, to the effect that the Spanish post-office is about to issue a stamp, value one centimo de peseta, subdivisible, in the same manner as the Mecklenburg and Brunswick quartett, into four quarter centimos. The reason for this emission is another curious illustration of the style of managing things at present in vogue in Spain. The denominations which up to the present time have been expressed in "cuartos," "centimos d'escudos," and "millesimas d'escudos," is henceforth to be in "centimos de peseta." The law or decree by virtue of which the new series is to be emitted, makes no provision for the issue of any stamps below the value of one centimo, and that is too high for printed matter weighing less than 5 grammes. The Spanish postmaster, to reconcile the law with the postal tariff, has decided on issuing four quarter centimo stamps in one single frame.

We have just time, before going to press, to chronicle the issue of the 25 mil. of the current series, in a very rich bright mauve, on semi-transparent paper.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—The subjoined engraving is that of a stamp introduced to notice by M. Moens, who, whilst he states that he received the original from a source far from suspicious, is careful not to guarantee its authenticity. We, for our part, must avow we look upon it as of very questionable value. It is said to be issued for the use of the three small Portuguese settlements, Goa, Diu, and Damaune, and is exceedingly coarse and ugly; but though, if it be admitted that the design is of colonial origin, its faults may be, to a certain extent, accounted for, if not excused, yet that affords no explanation of the grotesqueness of the inscriptions. We do not pretend to affirm that *SERVICO POSTAL* is not Portuguese; but we may, at any rate, point out that the

word *CORREIO* has hitherto been the only term used on the Portuguese home or colonial stamps to designate the post-office or its service. Nor are the words *INDIA PORT* calculated to increase our confidence in the stamp. The thing we strongly suspect to be a humbug of the first water, though, should our suspicions prove groundless, we shall be happy to make the *amende honorable*. That our readers may the more readily detect it, we may state that it is printed in black, is perforated—an odd characteristic for so rough a stamp,—and the copy from which M. Moens describes is obliterated with an oval, formed of a set of horizontal lines, with the figure 16 in the centre; though where sixteen post-offices could be found in the settlements above referred to is a mystery.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The really handsome design, of which the annexed engraving is a fair copy, has made its appearance, as the French say, without drum or trumpet. The execution is on a par with Messrs. De La Rue's habitual finish and style, and the colour, a delicate light brown, completes the charm. The design is superior to that of any of the other English stamps, and we almost think it must have been originally intended for one of our colonies, or for some foreign customer. We only hope that the other values may soon be represented by equally attractive types; and the only thing we have to regret is the insertion of the minute figures and corner letters. On this new sixpenny the numerals 11 will be found at the bases of the lower triangles, and they are so finely drawn and unobtrusive that they appear to merge in the general design; but this, no doubt, is partly owing to their shape; more intricate figures, such as 4, 8, 3, 6, or 9, would show up more prominently. In this connection it is worth noting that the usual system of commencing a fresh set of numbers with a fresh design has been departed from. The last plate of the old sixpenny bears the number 10; the new type starts with number 11. The plan of putting check letters in the corners seems to us to be a superfluous precaution. No

English stamp was ever forged before the adoption of this plan, and it is the only feature in the English mode of stamp fabrication that has found absolutely no supporters in foreign countries or the colonies. Were it to be abandoned, scope would be given for a much freer and more graceful ornamentation of the angles.

The portrait is the stereotyped profile which may certainly be said to adorn so many stamps; it is "a thing of beauty," and therefore may remain "a joy for ever" to the engravers; but we should prefer something more realistic and less fanciful. The Canadian bill, and Newfoundland postage stamps, with portrait of the Queen, in widow's weeds, are infinitely more pleasing, and excite the admiration even of outside philistines.

Fresh specimens of English dated envelopes, with threads, continue to crop up. Our Birmingham contemporary notices a penny envelope, dated 6-6-62. Some authoritative explanation of the reissue of the threaded envelopes is much to be desired.

The Philatelist notices that Messrs. Parkins & Gotto now use penny envelopes, of which the impressed stamp is surrounded with a ring bearing their names, &c., in white cameo letters, on a ground of dull plum or bright green, which latter hue, our correspondent observes, contrasting with the pink, has a pleasing effect.

The change in the regulations connected with the sale of post cards seems to have been made principally for the benefit of stationers, who are to be "at liberty to devise a variety of cards, differing in quality and design," for general use; but from a reply made by the Postmaster-general in the House of Commons, on the 13th ult., to a question addressed to him, it appears that only cards bearing impressed stamps will be accepted at the post-office. We should have thought that within certain defined limits of size any card, prepaid by an adhesive stamp, would have been acceptable. However, the question now arises to us, as philatelists,—Will the cards which may be presented for stamping, by stationers, bear the present post-card stamp, without the accompanying border and inscription, or the present half-

penny wrapper stamp, or will they be distinguished by some special design?

In our March number one of our correspondents mentioned the existence of hand-stamped inscriptions on old letters, consisting of the words PENNY POST, with the name of a town or person prefixed. Another correspondent sends us some of these old marks for our inspection. We have Daventry, St. Albans, and Watford penny post—the name of the town in Roman capitals, the other words in small letters—and Potton penny post, in italics; in all cases the town being on the first, and the words "penny post" on the second line. Our correspondent does not give us the dates of the letters from which these postmarks were cut out; we are, therefore, left uncertain whether they had any reference to a local penny rate for letters posted and delivered within the same town *before* the introduction of the present general system, or whether it is merely a memento of the first days of that system. At any rate they are certainly far from being devoid of interest, and authentic intelligence respecting them is much to be desired.

NORWAY.—*Drontheim*.—A new local for this town has just been handed to us by a well-known Liverpool firm. We append an illustration of it. It is printed in carmine-rose, and perforated. The name —BRÆKSTAD & CO.—on the garter is that of the owners of the post. Mr. Brækstad was formerly in business in Liverpool; he has now been established at Drontheim—or Throndhjems, to adopt the Norwegian spelling—for upwards of five years, as a large bookseller and stationer. Having purchased the local post from the last proprietors, he has remodelled it, and issued the above stamp, together with two other values, $\frac{1}{2}$ sk. and 2 sk., of the colours of which we are as yet without information. The old brown Throndhjems stamp is now obsolete. The execution of the new design is respectable, and from the foregoing details it will be seen that it may be considered as worthy of acceptance.



FRANCE.—The announcement we copied

last month from a French newspaper, that a new series of adhesives is shortly to be emitted, gains in consistency. From a diagram published in a Parisian daily, it would appear that the value in words will be repeated on three sides of the frame, and it is affirmed that the issue will commence on this 1st of May. Of the proposed design with large figures in centre, rejected on account of their ugliness, Baron Arthur Rothschild possesses three proofs in black on carton.

CEYLON.—We annex engravings of two more of the values of the new series, and



take the opportunity to mention, on the united authority of our Brighton and Birmingham contemporaries, the interesting fact that the new Cingalese dollar, composed of 100 cents, is worth only about 2/1 or 2/2; and, therefore, the cent just equals our farthing. The new series thus contains the equivalents of the old $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 9d., 1/-, and 2/- stamps. Most probably the threepence will also be represented in it before long.

UNITED STATES.—The seven-cent stamps, if Mr. Scott be an authority, are having a diversified life. They were first issued in consequence of a seven-cent rate having been negotiated with Germany, then withdrawn upon the reduction of that rate to six cents, and now reissued in consequence of the seven-cent rate being established for letters to Denmark. Does the United States issue stamps to suit the rates, or does it make rates to suit the stamps? *The Philatelic Journal*, relying on information supplied to it by an Indiana postmaster, doubts the statements of the New York paper, but we are, nevertheless, inclined to trust the latter. At any rate it is satisfactory to know that the 7 c. is still current, as it will be procurable at a reasonable price instead of being elevated into a rarity.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—We annex a representation of the new one cent, which is found in two very distinct shades—a dull yellow-orange and a deep orange-red. It will be observed that the figure is repeated in all four corners, without any addition to the beauty of the design as a result.

RUSSIA.—We have information, from two of our Russian correspondents, of the intention of the imperial post-office to issue post cards bearing impressed stamps. One of our informants states that they were to appear on or about the 1st April, old style; the values are to be 3 and 5 kop., respectively, but we have no knowledge of the designs adopted. The unstamped cards will continue in circulation.

We draw attention to Mr. Pleske's interesting letter in our correspondence column, explaining the signification of the arms depicted on several of the Russian local stamps.

NEW GRANADA.—A new one-centavo stamp from this country reached us at the beginning of last month, of which we have pleasure in subjoining an illustration. The arms are maintained in their place of honour; the nine stars are represented by nine little asterisks below the shield, and at a first glance appear to have been inserted as an insignificant groundwork. The colour is a dull, or "sap," green. Perforation is still a deferred improvement.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—On the occasion of the issue of the new sixpenny stamp for this colony we reproduce the engraving copied from the proof which figures on p. 105 of our eighth volume. We learn, from the *Philatelic Journal*, that the cost of the die, &c., was so great that the New South Wales government had a copy made in the colony, the execution of which is really excellent. This reminds us of the procedure of the



Belgian post-office, which also found Messrs. De La Rue's productions to be of the nature of expensive luxuries.

FIJI ISLANDS.—It is suggested that the letters C. R. stand for CAKOMBAU REX. The surcharged set of stamps now arrives perforated. The sheets are said, by the *American Journal of Philately*, to be watermarked FIJI POSTAGE, each stamp in the centre row getting one letter.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The latest arrivals of the penny stamp show a white line added to the inner frame, the shading also is lighter than heretofore. The *American Journal of Philately* is entitled to the credit of first noticing these peculiarities.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—A new envelope has recently made its appearance, bearing, on the right hand upper corner, an impression in azure blue, from the die of the adhesive sixpence of the first type, which bears the ornithological designation of "owl-eagle."

CANADA.—The *Canadian Philatelist* says:—"It is unlikely that the 12½ c. small size will be issued, as the large ones are very little used, and can now be bought at the post-office at 12 cents."

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The *Philatelist* states that it has been decided to issue a threepenny stamp for this colony, of the design of the present set, colour as yet undetermined.

WHAT ARE THEY WORTH?

"*Rien n'est sacré pour un sapeur*," and the reprinter may be put in the same category with the military desecrator. In his hands no rarities are safe. Unobliterated impressions of the first Brunswick emission have been hitherto counted among the choice specialities of a good collection, and original specimens will continue to be so considered, but reprints of two at least out of the three values have appeared, and the market is evidently on the point of being inundated with them. Undiscerning collectors may be attracted by the temptation to possess unused copies of this first issue, but experienced philatelists will shun them as the result of a reprehensible speculation. Even beginners will, we trust, have the sense to prefer

honestly obliterated specimens to the "flashy" reprints which can add no more value to the collections which receive them, than would a mere wood-cut engraving of the design. In the batch of Brunswick reprints, which form the subject of the present observations, are comprised the rare 1 sgr. rose, and the 2 sgr. blue, on white paper. The colours and entire appearance are characterised by an unwholesome newness. There is also a 3 sgr. rose, unwatermarked, like the other two, but if it be intended to represent the stamp of that value in the first series, printed in red, it is a miserable failure. Its colour is unmistakably rose, and were it watermarked, we should have no hesitation in classing it as the 1862 emission.

Besides these there are found the 1 sgr. of 1853 on orange and buff paper, 2 sgr. dark blue, and 3 sgr. rose, of the same series; ¼ sgr. brown, and ½ sgr. white, of 1856, and the 1 sgr. yellow of 1865—all *unwatermarked*, so there can be no great difficulty in distinguishing them from the originals, and this time we shall hear no talk of remainders.

With the Brunswick reprints there have appeared a number of questionable Hawaiian 2, 5 and 13 c. The 2 c. are of the 1862 type, portrait of Kamehameha IV., with branches at sides, and UKU LETA above. They are of a strikingly deep red colour, and in sheets of fifteen, are unused, and have the word CANCELLED printed in black capitals across the base of the disk, and touching the margin on either side. The 5 c. and 13 c. are of the 1853 emission, portrait of Kamehameha III., and are in sheets of twenty stamps, with the word SPECIMEN, in close black capitals, printed across the base of the bust. The colours of these stamps are of the ordinary shades. These "specimen" and "cancelled" impressions come, there is no reason to doubt the fact, from the Honolulu post-office itself, but, in the words of our title,—What are they worth? Mr. Atlee's recent, and still unfinished, article on the Hawaiian stamps furnishes us some answer to this question. Mr. Atlee has seen the "specimen" 5 c. and 13 c., and may, though he does not say so, have also seen the "cancelled" two cents. His impression of the former is, that they "are either portions of waste sheets, or copies

purposely cancelled to destroy their franking powers." We say (he adds) *the bulk* advisedly, for doubtless genuine early impressions so marked *may* exist. We found our opinion upon a letter received from the Honolulu post-office by M. Nunès, of Paris, dated September 9th, 1869. After invoicing the balance of the later "figure" stamps then in the office, the postmaster says: "You have herewith twenty of each old 5 c. and 13 c. head 'specimen.' All now left in P.O. of this kind are so marked; future orders can, therefore, only be filled of that kind, although the full price is charged. In case you should give any further orders, please bear this in consideration, and give us your instructions."

Mr. Atlee, upon this, justly remarked that no government would print off hundreds of sheets with each stamp a specimen, and that, therefore, this mark must have been adopted either to prevent the issue of waste sheets, or to satisfy the postmaster's scruples in selling the stamps to collectors, adding, however, that "when the postmaster offers to fill 'further orders,' one feels inclined to suspect *reprinting*."

Mr. Atlee's suspicions seem to be fully justified by the event, and there is nothing surprising in the postmaster of a semi-civilized state, for the sake of a slight addition to a revenue which can never be great, stooping to a practice which would be beneath the notice of the postal department of a more important power. The idea certainly need *not* surprise us after the hint that has been already thrown out, to the effect that the New Granadine office forges its own stamps for the benefit of collectors. We doubt the probability of waste sheets having been held over during the long period which has elapsed since the Hawaiian stamps in question were withdrawn from circulation, and believe that the phrase in the postmaster's letter, "All now left in the P.O. of this kind are so marked," should read, "All now *made* in the P.O." The regularity of the impression of the surcharged word shows that the inscription was set up with a certain amount of care and precision to provide for the printing off of a considerable stock, and the widely different colour of the two cents is in itself evidence

of a reprint. The use of the word "cancelled" for the latter value, which seems to have been reprinted since the other, as it was not referred to in the letter above quoted, shows that, either as the result of his own meditations, or in consequence of a suggestion to that effect, the Honolulu postmaster saw that the word "specimen" was objectionable, and that the word "cancelled" lent itself better to the supposition that the stamps were remainders.

Now, we ask again,—What are they worth? They are most probably reprints, palmed off as remainders; they do not come to us in honest guise, and the semblance of deception in the get-up is fatal to the claims for admission of the stamp which bears it. We strongly advise our readers to abstain from purchasing them, as they can never be regarded as really satisfactory specimens of the type they represent.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Canadian Philatelist. Quebec: Birt, Williams, & Co.

We hail with pleasure the starting of a stamp-collector's magazine in the Dominion, and wish our young contemporary success. Its present dimensions are modest, but if it receives the support it deserves from the philatelists of British America, an increase in volume will soon be called for. At present it is true the "cause" does not seem to be in a very encouraging condition. "In Canada," says the new journal, "the whole body of collectors are boys; in fact, we do not know of more than half-a-dozen adults who collect postage stamps, and are acquainted with but one *philatelist*." Perhaps it may be right in stating that "one of the causes of this deplorable condition of things is the want of a good stamp journal, or at any rate of a really conscientious dealer." If so, the editors and publishers of the new enterprise have the means of effecting a philatelic resuscitation; the former, by making their paper attractive; the latter, by practising that conscientiousness they commend.

The leading article in the second and third numbers are readable. "What shall we collect?" is written with a freedom from ignorant

prejudice against the acceptance of watermark and perforation varieties, which, in an article written on the other side of the Atlantic, causes us a pleasant surprise. The paper "The Canadian Post" is creditable to the writer, though we think the leading facts appeared some years back in *The Stamp-Collectors's Monthly Gazette*.

If we may give a hint to our *confrère*, it would be to omit the monthly article entitled "The Press," as the space is too confined to admit of a sufficient notice of the contents of other journals, and would be better filled by a well-digested article on some interesting philatelic point. Our "young" friend must remember that it has not room enough to be diffusive, and every line of its contents should contain real information; there is enough and to spare to be had, and it only requires proper working up.

The Stamp-Collector's Journal and Philatelic Opinion. London: Light & Jackson.

Two numbers of this journal are before us. They represent the venture of a newly-started firm, and are characterised by a respectable tone. Without being strikingly original, their contents are readable, and more especially those of the second number. The grammar also, as a whole, is up to the mark, although the expression, "we must content us" would bear correction, and some better word than "skinny" might have been found, to designate a poorly-drawn anchor.

Our first impression, on reading the title "Philatelic Opinion," was, that we were about to peruse a magazine got up in the style of *Public Opinion*, and composed exclusively of selections from the philatelic press. For such a paper we should think there might be fair scope.

In the chronicle we find one or two novel items,—thus, it is stated that the union of the Orange Free State with the South African Republic is likely to take place shortly, with the probable result of a fresh emission of stamps. Again, our contemporary affirms that "the Sydney letter-sheets, which are now being offered pretty freely, are not even reprints"—a statement in support of which he offers no proof whatever.

A list of Queensland stamps follows the chronicle, and appears to have been carefully compiled; indeed, the editor of *The Philatelic Journal* states that its arrangement "has been obtained, in some inexplicable manner, from his own private notes." This, he adds, he can prove, for "the very expressions, the divisions and subdivisions, and the concluding remarks, are all his own." This is either a very striking coincidence—or something else. At any rate, it is a personal question, into which we have no reason to enter further. In the introduction to this Queensland article, we find the following sensible observation upon colour-varieties.

Of all variations, those of intensity or paleness of shade are least important, as they are the result of chance, for the most part. Anyone who has examined any number of stamps in sheets, will have noticed how often the row on the one side of the sheet is dark, while that on the opposite side is pale.

This we can fully confirm; and the explanation lies in the fact that the roller, when passed over the plate or stone, is frequently pressed down with greater force on the side nearest the workman. Condemning, as the writer of the above quotation does, the collection of shades, he is hardly consistent with himself in noticing so many for the Queensland stamps. Thus, the penny of 1863, unwatermarked, on thick paper, machine perf. 13, is given as existing in red-brown, orange-vermilion, pale orange, and deep orange. The red-brown and the orange were presumably the result of separate mixings of colour, but who can say as much of the minor shades of orange?

Under the heading "The Detection of Forged Stamps," a new and dangerous set of Hamburg counterfeits are treated on—the current Dutch Indies. The description is accompanied by a specimen of the forged 5 c., which is so well copied, even to the shade of green, as easily to deceive an unpractised observer.

The remaining contents of the second number do not call for special attention. Altogether, though not brilliant, the new comer is superior to most of the recently issued publications, and may in time prove to be a substantial acquisition to the ranks of the philatelic press.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRUSSIAN SIEGE OF PARIS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—The interesting article in your last number, on "Postal Matters under the Commune," is not quite accurate in one particular:—"It is a remarkable fact, that during the first siege no imperial stamps, so far as we know, were used." In opposition to this statement, I have in my collection two balloon letters, postmarked PARIS, OCT. 3, and DEC. 7, bearing, respectively, 30 c. and 20 c. stamps of the empire series. The earliest dated letter with the republic stamps (10 c., 20 c., perf.) that I have, is postmarked Nov. 9.

Yours truly,

WARDEN

THE NEW CHILIAN POSTAGE STAMPS, &c.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you, that the post-office authorities here have decided to issue envelopes, as well as post cards, and have ordered the following to be made in the United States:—Post cards, 2 c. black and 5 c. red; envelopes, 2 c. bronze, 5 c. red, 10 c. blue, 15 c., colour not fixed, and 20 c. green. In a letter to the editor of *The Philatelist* the other day, I added an adhesive, value 15 c.; but on a second reading of the postmaster-general's note to the minister for foreign affairs, I have come to the conclusion that we are not to have the benefit of any addition to our adhesive series.

The English card is to serve as model for the Chilian "*Tarjeta*," Ours is to be of the same size and thickness, but we are not told whether it is to be of tinted or white card. The stamp will be the same as the corresponding adhesive, as the original die is to be used. Our envelopes are to be in paper of three colours—white, yellow, and blue. Columbus's bust, I presume, will figure on the impressions, as nothing is said to the contrary. The American Bank-Note Co. will most probably be entrusted with the execution of the above; and, as soon as they appear, I shall take care to send you specimens.

According to a government decree, dated January 27th, local posts have been established here since the 8th inst. The postage charged is 2 c. per letter, whatever be its weight.

I enclose a specimen of the second emission of post cards. To call it a "card" is, however, a misnomer, as you will perceive that it is made of thick blue laid paper. The card, I fancy, was found too expensive, i.e., if manufactured here.

There must be a great scarcity of postage stamps in Bolivia, if we may judge by the number of fiscals which are used for postal purposes; if anything, they are used more now than at first.

Begging you will excuse the length of this letter,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours obediently,

L. W. M.

Valparaiso.

RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMP; HELSINGFORS, &c.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I am glad to be able to give you some information respecting the design of the Russian local stamps. I will begin by saying that those designs are, without doubt, the arms of the towns, with few exceptions (those of Charkoff, for instance); but their explanation, not easy

by itself, becomes still more difficult on account of the bad execution. All that I know about them at present is this:

Soumy.—The name "Soumy" is the plural number of the word "Soumá," meaning bag; this is the reason of the strange coat of arms of that town. I have a blue specimen, value 1 kop., with the 1 changed into 5 by red ink.

Tambóff.—Bee-hive; bee-keeping being very much spread, the bee-hive is the armorial design not only of the town, but also of the government (province) of Tambów. This is why it reappears on the stamps of Shatzk.

In three other stamps I have found explanations of one half of the design, viz.:—

Boqoródsck.—The design of the lower part is to be a weaving-loom or a spinning-wheel, an emblem of the cotton works and silk manufactories of the town. The upper part represents the arms of the government of Moscow.

Belozérsck.—3 kopecs. The fish indicate the situation of the town near the Béloe Ozero (White Lake), fish being the principal trade article. The town is one of the oldest in Russia. Sineus, a brother of Rjurik, who came to Russia with him, in 862 (of Norman origin), took his seat there.

Borovichí is situated on the river Msta, which forms a connecting link in the canal system which unites the Baltic to the Caspian sea. The design in the right half of the stamp (a kind of staircase) is a lock or sluice, an illustration of the cataracts of the Msta, near Borovichí.

Berdjansk is a Black Sea—or rather Azow—seaport, therefore the anchor. This town is a contrast to Novgorod, Pskoff, and Belozersk, since its existence dates from 1827, and the title of town was conferred on it but in 1835.

To the description of the Valdai mountains I have only to add that the highest points are of 840 and 900 feet (and not 1200).

The names of the following towns are erroneously spelt in your list, letters being omitted:—

Atkar	should be	Atkársck.
Egorieff	"	Egórieffsck.
Shatz	"	Shatzck.
Shadrin	"	Shádrinsck.

The well-known stamps of Livonia must undoubtedly be classed amongst the local stamps, since they do the same duty.

The stamp for Helsingfors, of which an illustration is given in vol. viii., page 151 of your magazine, is a humbug. I wrote about it to the private company which is authorised to issue those stamps, and was told that the well-known three stamps are the only ones that have been issued.

Russian post cards are to appear in May, with 3 kop. and 5 kop. stamps impressed on them; but those without stamps are not to be withdrawn.

Hoping that this communication may be of some use to you,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Petersburg.

E. PLESKE.

THE ALBUM QUESTION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I see from the letter of your correspondent, E. S., in the January number of the magazine, that the question of a suitable and permanent stamp album is as far from solution as ever.

I have tried both prepared and blank albums. The first I condemn without reserve, except for beginners. To the second I have the same objection as E. S.; as he says,

"One leaves spaces for stamps which never turn up, and one does not leave spaces for such as do."

I have never seen any of the albums on the "crotchet" plan, but from some allusions I have seen made to them in the magazines, I fancy they are not without their disadvantages.

Thinking these things over a few days ago, it struck me that real permanent albums would never be attainable till they were made on something like the same principle as the photographic albums, of course with considerable difference. I shall proceed to explain as well as I can the manner in which I think they ought to be got up.

In the first place, the leaves would have to be made of three sheets of paper, glued into one, after being properly prepared. The first would form the back of the page; the middle one should have spaces cleanly cut out of it, all uniform, and the exact size of the mounts to which the stamps would have to be hinged; the third would form the face of the page, with spaces cut to correspond with the middle one, but the sixteenth of an inch less at the top and bottom, to overlap the mount and keep it in its place; or the overlapping might be at the corners, if it were found to be better.

There would have to be a space at the top of each page, formed in a similar way, in which to insert the name of each country. It would have to be long enough to admit of the longest name, as well as the shortest.

As the spaces and mounts would all be of one uniform size, the stamps could be arranged to suit each collector's taste, and rearranged at pleasure, if he wished to make any change.

If the stamps were mounted on common paper, instead of card, it would obviate the necessity of guards, as the stamps would lie on the same level as the face of the page.

A collector wishing to examine or rearrange a specimen, could, by inserting the point of a penknife under the edge of the mount, raise it from its place in a moment; a whole page, name and all, could be transferred to any other part of the book in a few seconds. When more space was required, all that would be needed would be a new album, uniform with the other, to which the stamps of one division of the world could be removed without the slightest damage to the first one, which would still be as useful as ever.

There would be no printing required, except the title-page. The names of the countries might be had separately. A plain border round each space, and a tasteful one round each page, would improve the appearance of the book.

I think any enterprising publisher, who thought there was anything in it, might have a small specimen page prepared with spaces, say, for half a dozen stamps and name. Any collector could procure one of these for a trifle, and judge of the method before anything further was done. If approved of, then a permanent album might be brought out, and the long vexed question set at rest.

The form, size, and get-up of the book, if the method were approved, might be decided by the majority of collectors themselves; for my own part, I prefer the oblong form. The binding should be strong and substantial, and not a thing to fall to pieces, or run out of shape, in a few months.

I enclose a small specimen page (hand-made and rough, of course); it will show you at a glance what I have tried to explain in this letter.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Alston, Cumberland.

WM. VIPOND.

[We cannot say we approve of our friend's suggestions, for we fear that the expense would be enormous, and excessive care would be required in mounting and handling stamps thus arranged. That the effect would be good we do not doubt, but we do not think it would exceed that produced by stamps well arranged in a blank album well supplied with guards.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. G. K., St. Petersburg.—We have been obliged to suppress our yearly catalogue of emissions, as we find it takes up too much space.

H. C. MORTON, Dublin.—We regret we cannot find space for your article on forgeries. The exposure of forgeries only scotches the snake, the exposure of those who sell them kills it outright.

G. C., Sutton.—The deep shade of the 25 kr. Austria has already been noticed.—The issue of the 30 c. Hong-Kong mauve has also been chronicled.—The Portuguese 120 reis stamp, of which you give a sketch, belongs to the current series.

Miss O., Sedbury Park.—We presume the stamps to which you refer are the reissued envelopes of sundry German states. An adhesive stamp is mounted over the original embossed design, and then the "minute grey figures" are impressed over the whole.

W. R. B., Belfast.—We do not think the 6 c. United States dark rose is worthy of special notice.—The system adopted by many private firms of punching out their initials across the postage stamps they use has already been noticed in these pages, and, we may add, it is now coming into very general favour.

L. O., Bedford, wishes to have an explanation of the manner in which the money-order cards and envelopes are used. Do the impressed stamps, he asks, represent the postage and the fee combined? Is the card or envelope sent by the person who obtains the order, and is the amount of the order paid against presentation of the card or envelope, as the case may be? Lastly, can private communications be written on the former or enclosed in the latter? We solicit information from our German correspondents on these points.

J. H. H., Hemel Hempstead.—Many thanks for communication of the "penny post" marks, which we notice elsewhere.—We cannot give you any information respecting the *London Gazette* fourpenny impressed stamp; it probably represents duty and postage.—What you suppose to be one of Mr. Lowe's original match stamps is only a copy of the design cut out of one of Messrs. Bryant & May's recent trade circulars.

Mr. E. PLESKE, St. Petersburg, writes:—"Have you ever seen a 4 c. of Spain, issue 1865, printed in blue (dark) and pink, exactly as the 12 c. of that issue, the oval being pink and the frame blue? The stamp is unperforated and unused. I bought it of your publishers' agent here, from one of their sheets. The price was not high, so that I suppose the *erreur d'impression* had not been observed." This is a well-known proof, and not a stamp.

E. M. S.—This correspondent sends us a specimen of the *four annas* India, 1866, printed *light* blue of the same shade as the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, 1858. The usual colour of this stamp is green, and we have ourselves very little doubt that it has been chemically changed, for green is a very easy colour to manipulate. Our correspondent has put the stamp in boiling water, without any fresh change resulting; but this proves nothing, as the blue shade would be gained by discharging one of the ingredients of the green, and not by the addition of any fresh component.—E. M. S. has an English embossed penny envelope stamp on threaded paper, dated 1860; and inquires how the employment of threaded paper at that time can be explained. The post-office discontinued using it in 1855; and the only explanation we can suggest is, that a small remnant of this paper was found, and worked off in 1860.

THE GORDIAN KNOT OF STAMP COLLECTING.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE Gordian knot is none other than the collection of envelopes. In the dark ages of philately, collectors cut out the stamps, and nothing but the stamps; subsequently, it became the practice to cut out the corner of the envelope, so that the impressed stamp might be shown in the centre of a square border; and in the full light of these latter days, the collection of the entire envelope is inculcated as the *only* correct and reasonable plan. How far it has ever been adopted by the general collecting public is a question, and that it is not viewed with universal satisfaction is proved by the following spirited letter, which appeared in the May number of the *Stamp-Collector's Journal*:—

"ENTIRE" v. "CUT" ENVELOPES.

SIR,—The subject named at the head of my letter may appear perhaps a somewhat antiquated one, but as a collector of many years' standing, I may without offence, I hope, be allowed for a moment to revive it. When first I began to take an interest in stamps, the pages of Lallier and Moens were unknown; magazines were yet unborn, and the best of English collections numbered something short of 500 varieties. At that early date, therefore, I need hardly say that the "entire" envelope school was, if existent, confined to a few choice spirits. Of course your humble servant had a firm belief in scissors—a belief which held its ground till some five years ago. Then came a reaction. The arguments brought forward by the "entire" school seemed unanswerable. To cut and trim was in other words a "gothic" practice! Still, a weakness remained for brightening the pages of one's albums with the cameo-like impressions of this and other envelope-emitting states. I had no choice, therefore, but to keep *stationery* samples in order to be orthodox, and to insert mangled specimens for the sake of beauty. The worst, however, of the matter is, that while many a one is interested in examining the books displaying the adhesives and envelopes in juxtaposition, few care to con the contents of a cabinet filled with covers of every conceivable length, breadth, and substance. In spite, therefore, of a by no means shabby collection of uncut envelopes, I am again falling back into my old way of thinking, and the study of the able papers of late contributed by Dr. Magnus to the *Timbre-Poste*, and by "A Parisian Collector" to *The Philatelist*, combines with the reason above given to lead me to abandon my present duplicate method. After all, what does the "entire" system amount to? We are told that in many cases it is only by having whole copies that we can judge between originals and reprints. Granted. But then this can at best only apply so long as we are purchasing copies. If we obtain them entire, and are duly satisfied that we have gotten the real Simon Pures, why should we be obliged, for the sake of retaining an unwieldy expanse of paper, to banish them to another receptacle far from their foster-brethren, the adhesives? And then, again, if the reprints are so exactly

reproductions of the originals, why, in the name of common sense, are they less valuable? It is all very well that record of every peculiarity should be registered in the magazines; but for every practical purpose surely it is enough that the brand, which sets apart the envelope from common purposes, and dedicates it to postal uses, be preserved.

Philately is a science, and stationery may one day, perchance, become a science also; but if they are not distinct subjects, then chalk and cheese are not unlike. Let every variety be, by all means, collected which is a variety of the stamp proper, or which tends to alter its appearance. An impression on laid, whether adhesive or envelope, is quite distinct from one on wove paper. The same holds good also of those struck on white or coloured; but why, when I have an envelope, say 6in. by 3½in., I ought also to have another, which differs merely in size, and is, say, 7in. by 4in., beats me "entirely." Is it not, sir, sheer humbug to burthen one's collection, for instance, with all the varieties of Victoria? Why the seals are as unmeaning as the vagaries of a simpleton. Or take our own newspaper bands: the day that introduced those most useful articles did so in a score of sizes and shapes. Had each variation then its special philatelic lesson? Bosh!

I would not for the world appear ungrateful for the learned labours of such men as Dr. Magnus, "A Parisian Collector," or Mr. Pemberton. Without such giants the atlas-burthen of the intricacies of the science of stamps would long ago have crushed its unlearned disciples out of life; but this I do protest against—that names worthily held in honour should, under the cloak of philately, be prostituted to the advancement of a system which is nothing less than an incubus that collectors cannot, unless they be in the trunk-lining business, endure.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Limerick, April 3, 1872.

WALTER VASS.

In this letter there is much that I cannot agree with, but I cannot refuse to admit that there is a certain substratum of truth in the arguments it contains. I am by no means disposed to *condemn* the practice of collecting entire envelopes; indeed, I was at one time pretty well convinced of its necessity. I gave in my own adhesion to it, my involuntary scepticism being for the time overpowered by the force and cogency of its advocates' reasoning; and logically, it may be, they still have the best of the argument. But as time has passed, and the doctrines of the entire-envelope school have been gradually developed, I have not been able to disguise from myself the fact, that the absolute veto placed by our most valued writers on the collection of cut envelopes is doing more harm than good. At the risk, therefore, of being charged with inconsistency and retrograde tendencies, I have decided on raising my humble voice to urge the re-admission of cut envelopes into favour.

I start with the proposition, that it is unwise to advocate a system of collecting which is likely to have for effect unduly to limit the number of philatelists; and I consider as philatelists all those who collect stamps other than for the mere purpose of making a show of them. He who collects stamps because of their historical value, and as the visible signs of an important step forward in the march of civilization, is as much a philatelist as is he who studies the different kinds of perforation, paper, &c. Equally worthy of the title are those who see their way to the collection of specimens, marking the really noteworthy phases in the history of a type, but whose natural tendency is against following out philately in its minor ramifications. I am persuaded that collectors of this second class form the majority of the philatelic body. They read the leading journals, they take an intelligent interest in all that is going on, and regard should be had to their opinions by those whose studies qualify them for the post of instructors. It is this numerous class which I believe objects to being forced into collecting uncut envelopes, and it is on their behalf that some compromise should be come to. I should be sorry to see stamp collecting become the pursuit of a select few, or hedged in with restrictions which would tend to render it a penance instead of a pleasure. Philately should be for collectors, and not collectors for philately. True it is, persons who desire to become collectors have not to join any particular society, nor sign a set of rules binding them to the acceptance of any one special mode of collecting, but all who are in earnest in collecting take in the principal periodicals, and if the articles which appear in them are not intended to influence the readers, then there is no use in writing them. The first desire of the ordinary philatelist is to collect envelopes, as well as adhesives, on the most approved method; he looks to the acknowledged authorities for guidance; their dicta have weight with him, and he finds that they nearly all insist that the envelope issues can only be properly represented by uncut specimens. Furthermore, he finds in the English and foreign magazines that not only must the envelopes be collected entire, but

also that every variety of shape ought also to be taken. If he attempts to follow this dictum, he finds himself confronted by insuperable difficulties. Uncut envelopes are difficult to get, especially those of the obsolete issues; they are costly, and last, but not least, they are excessively cumbersome. No published album provides space for entire specimens, and the different plans for mounting them, in special books, though highly ingenious, require a great expenditure of time, if not of money. What then can he do? If he does not abjure collecting in disgust, he either continues under the thralldom of a teaching against which he inwardly rebels, procuring uncut envelopes when and how he can, and hoping that some day a simple and feasible plan may be proposed for mounting them, or he shuts his eyes to what he logically *ought* to do, and "goes in" for cut envelopes. Thence arises a discord between the teaching of the standard authorities and the practice of the ordinary collector. This discord I should like to see terminated, and doctrine made to square with practice.

I honour the labours of the few erudite philatelists who, with special opportunities for the complete study of envelopes, take a pleasure in the collection and chronicling of entire specimens. We less scientific philatelists profit by their labours; but I think the pleasure they have derived from the discovery of secondary and unimportant varieties, has led them to attach far too much importance to uncut specimens, and that they have strained authority too far in branding the collection of cut copies as absurd and reprehensible. The interminable varieties, consisting in size, shape, design of flap-stamp, and extent of gummed surface, can never be collected by any but a limited number of connoisseurs, and can never be made to interest ordinary collectors; nor will all the reasoning in the world suffice to overcome the repugnance of these latter to the collection of what the writer of the above letter calls "stationery." In entire envelopes there is a broad expanse of blank paper, and the really interesting portion forms but one corner of the whole. It may, indeed, be said that the flap is also interesting, but it can be so only to very few persons, for most

collectors will concentrate all their attention on the design, and they will not be convinced against their will that they ought to study every portion of the envelope. It is of no use insisting on the acceptance of uncut envelopes alone as the *only* proper thing to do, whilst the sense of collectors is against their acceptance; and in asserting that the great body of collectors prefer cut specimens, I challenge contradiction. The teaching of our leaders is decidedly in advance of the age, and, with all respect to them, I venture to urge that the collection of cut envelopes should be recognised by them to be *permissible and sensible*. Let them look facts in the face, and, taking a practical view of the difficulties which surround the collection of uncut specimens, coupled with the animus against them, withdraw their veto; otherwise they may be assured that, by pushing their arguments to what I admit may be their *logical* consequences, the collection of envelopes, the cut with the uncut, will die out. Extreme opinions in this and other matters are gaining too much ground, and though no one would question the right of their owners to entertain and act on them, some protest is needed against the aggressive and uncompromising way in which they are preached. Limitations in the mode of collecting may lead to limitations in the number of collectors, but it would be better that philately should not be considered to be a science, than that there should be no philatelists. Everyone who collects likes to feel that he has a collection, and by insisting that only by accepting uncut envelopes are the canons of the science conformed to, you greatly diminish the pleasure he takes in his cut copies.

I have no desire to play the alarmist, but I cannot repress the fear that the gradual extinction of stamp collecting may result from the attempt to inculcate too absolutely the collection of uncut envelopes and secondary varieties of adhesives. Let us, then, frankly admit that the admission of such envelopes and such varieties does and should form *the exception, and not the rule*; the pleasure of the few, and not the duty of the many; then, I believe, the future prospects of philately will be clearer and brighter.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

*Roumania.**(Continued from page 71.)*

THE interest felt in the two Moldavian series arises principally from the circumstances surrounding their origin, and the doubtful points connected with their own history; whilst the interest felt in the emissions of the United Principalities appears to me to spring, in no small degree, from the fact that they prominently illustrate the course of events in those countries, and form an excellent example of the value of stamps as teachers. Before recapitulating the various issues, which in themselves offer comparatively little difficulty, it will be as well to refer as briefly as possible to recent Roumanian history.

At the close of the Russian war, the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia were governed by their respective hospodars. A commission was then sent out with the ostensible object of ascertaining the inclinations of the two peoples; and, as a consequence of its report, the great powers settled—by the supplementary Convention of Paris, signed in 1858—that the two provinces should remain disunited as before. The ardent desire of the inhabitants was, however, for union; and their wishes were remarkably advanced by the death of both the reigning hospodars a few months afterwards. No new candidate could openly “stand” for the two provinces, but if each province chose spontaneously and separately to elect as their ruler one and the same man, the provisions of the Paris treaty might be evaded. This was just what they did in respect of Prince Couza; and on the 24th of January, 1859, the two countries were united under his rule, and styled The United Principalities. In 1861 the great powers recognised the union, and appointed that the provinces should thereafter be styled *Roumania*, the name they have since borne. Until the recognition of the union, however, each province continued to be separately administered, and there were, consequently, two sets of

ministers and authorities. In 1862, however, the two administrations were fused in one, and the government offices were transferred from Jassy to Bucharest. In 1866 a revolution took place; Prince Couza was dethroned and fled the country, which then began to look out for a new ruler. Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, an "unattached" subaltern of his house, was deemed to be the man for the place; but for certain state reasons it became necessary to keep his nomination a secret. He left Prussia quietly, travelled through Hungary disguised as a wine merchant's traveller, and, armed with a box of samples, crossed the border, and was then welcomed by his adherents and publicly proclaimed. He still occupies the throne, but he has to do with a set of politicians difficult to manage, and has more than once been on the point of throwing up the reins of government. Only very recently there was a question of his resigning, but the difficulty appears to have been tided over, at any rate for the present.

Coming now to the postal emissions, we find that the first series for the United Principalities was issued on New Year's Day, 1862.* The design is a grotesque



one, but not without meaning. It represents the arms of the united countries—Moldavia and Wallachia,—and is the only one (if we except an apocryphal essay) on which the Wallachian eagle appears. The execution

is no better than that of the preceding type.

This series remained in use for four years. No variations took place in the rough design, but there are not a few colour varieties, and advanced collectors distinguish two emissions—one on thin *pelure*, and the other on thin laid paper. M. Moens gives the date of issue of the latter, which is the rarer of the two, as 1864; but there is some doubt as to this being the correct one. It is a question which can only be decided by a careful comparison of the obliterations on the two sets. The colours, as given by M. Moens, are as follows:—

* M. Rondot gives the date as being the 25th June, 1862; but M. Moens' correspondent is more likely to be right.

On <i>pelure</i> paper,—	3	paras,	citron.
" " "	3	"	yellow.
" " "	3	"	orange.
" " "	6	"	carmine.
" " "	6	"	pale vermillion.
" " "	6	"	bright ditto.
" " "	30	"	light blue.
" " "	30	"	Prussian blue.
" " "	30	"	dull dark blue.
On laid paper,—	3	"	yellow.
" " "	3	"	orange.
" " "	6	"	carmine.
" " "	6	"	dark red.
" " "	30	"	Prussian blue.
" " "	30	"	dull dark blue.

As the same colours are found in both series, they may have been issued concurrently. At any rate, this is a point of which a beginner may defer the consideration; as if he gets one or two shades of each value, he will have a sufficient number for his purpose. All the values may be obtained with ease. The series was in use for a long time after philately became an established pursuit, and the principal dealers got over large supplies. Besides this, when the succeeding series (head of Couza) was withdrawn from circulation, these 1862 stamps were again used for a short time; and I believe that during, or after their second currency, the different values were supplied in the sheet by the Roumanian post-office, obliterated with the diamond cancelling mark, first used on the Couza stamps.

It will be observed that the values are lower than those of the preceding series. A fresh revision of the tariff took place prior to the emission of this first Roumanian set. The service, which had previously been irregularly conducted, was reorganised in 1862 by a certain Mr. Manovarda and others, and their efforts to secure a well-worked postal system appear to have gained a certain success. Of the three values, the lowest (3 par.) was for journals, the 6 paras for letters "for the town,"† and the 30 paras for letters from town to town.

† "For the town" is the expression used by M. Moens' correspondent, but I cannot make out whether he intends to allude specially to Bucharest, or whether he means that 6 paras was the rate for letters posted and delivered in any one town.

A further advance in postal reform led to the suppression of the series of 1862. From 3, 6, and 30 paras, the rates were reduced to 2, 5, and 20 paras. Dr. Magnus suggests that the desire to evidence the union by employing stamps bearing no reminder of the former separation had also something to do with the adoption of the type issued in 1865, and distinguished by its bearing the effigy of Prince Couza. May it not be that the prince was desirous of seeing his portrait on the stamps, and may not also the authorities have been somewhat ashamed of the 1862 design? The latter seems to be the most probable cause of any.

The Couza series is by no means a *chef-d'œuvre* of lithography, but it is a vast improvement on its predecessors. It was home-made, and I might almost say (looking at the condition of art in the country), as a natural consequence, the design and legend are not absolute-

ly identical for the three values. The details of the drawing, especially of the neck, are dissimilar, and the letters are not alike in size on all the values. Of the 20 paras two very distinct and generally admitted types exist, which I believe I may claim the honour of having been the first to observe,* and I cannot do better than quote verbatim Dr. Magnus' analysis of them:—

"TYPE 1.—Forehead receding; a few more curls of hair above.

"Nose elongated, triangular.

"Lower lip covered by the moustache.

"Beard not so thick, and encroaching less upon the chin.

"Neck longer, and bordered near the front with a range of small oblique lines.

"Section of the neck swelling out in front but very little.

"The 0 of the 20 in each angle is thicker and more irregular, whilst, at the same time, it is much smaller than the 2, except in the upper right angle.

"TYPE 2.—The forehead is arched, and has fewer locks of hair.

"Nose rounded, and more of a pug.

"Lower lip plainly detached from the upper.

"Beard thicker and larger.

"Neck shorter, and swelling out but slightly at the base, with few or none of the oblique lines.

"Section of the neck showing a prominent and swollen point.

"The 0 of 20 is narrower and higher than the 2, save at the lower left angle.

"Lastly, if the two types are compared together, it will be found that the first type is a trifle larger each way than the second type."

The dissimilarities in the stamps of the other two values examined by Dr. Magnus are less striking, and considered by him as insufficient to constitute a second type; but with regard to the 5 paras I have reason to believe that there is a quite distinct variety, though I am perhaps alone in my belief on the subject. The engraving introduced above is the one which was given in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, when the series first made its appearance, and it will be noticed that the corner figures in the lower angles are narrower and taller than those of the common type. Now, I had the opportunity of examining, if not the identical stamp from which the engraver copied, at any rate, others of the same batch, and I well remember that these corner figures in the stamp were similar in shape to those of the engraving,—a little thinner if anything; and this easily recognisable peculiarity was accompanied by other and lesser differences, sufficient, in my opinion, to render the type worthy of being chronicled as a separate one. It has been suggested to me that this second type exists only as a proof, and such may be the case, though my own recollection is against the correctness of this supposition.

All three stamps of this series are found in a number of shades: the 2 paras in yellow ochre, light chrome-yellow, and orange; the 5 paras in sky-blue and dark blue; the 20 paras in pale red, red, vermillion, and carmine-red. The lighter colours are, generally speaking, the earliest-issued, though I find that the orange 2 paras appeared contemporaneously with the other shades. This latter value also exists on laid paper.

This series had only a short circulation, but

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., pp. 111, 160.

its stamps have never been in the least degree rare. In 1866 a revolution took place, which resulted in the exit of Prince Couza and the entrance of Prince Charles, in the manner already related. Prince Couza, who during his administration had, it is stated, succeeded in "feathering his nest," when his presence was no longer required in Roumania, philosophically took up his abode in Paris, where he probably still resides. There was to have been, in any case, a fresh series of stamps, and a number of designs were prepared for the inspection of the Roumanian administration, some of which afterwards figured as specimens of engraving in the Paris exhibition. I refrain, however, from noticing them, for as a whole they are not altogether surrounded by an "odour of sanctity;" on the contrary, there is a certain suspicious air of speculation connected with them all, and hence they are unsavoury things for a beginner to meddle with.

On the 1st August, 1866, appeared the first emission bearing the portrait of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern. The design is too well known to need much comment; suffice it, then, to say that it was printed in black on coloured paper. It was first issued on thick, strongly-tinted paper, the colours being as follows:—

2 parale	deep yellow.
5 "	blue.
20 "	rose, deep rose.

A second edition was afterwards issued on thinner and paler tinted paper, viz.:—

2 parale	light yellow.
5 "	blue.
20 "	pale rose.

Both editions should certainly be collected, as it is evident that the change in paper, if not in colour, running through the whole series, was intentional. The framework of each value was separately drawn, though the differences in the 2 and 5 paras are hardly important enough to call for special notice. Those which distinguish the 20 paras are sufficient to permit of the chronicling of two types. The most prominent

peculiarities of the second type are (1), that the border on the upper part of the right side runs in the same way as that on the upper part of the left; (2) that the brick groundwork is more open.

In 1868 the decimal currency was adopted, the *lei* representing the franc, and the *bani* the centimes. This led to the issue of a new series, differing slightly in type from its predecessor. The same portrait filled the circle, but a kind of cross superseded the corner figures, and the border pattern is of a more complicated character; the ground also is formed of horizontal lines only. The values and colours are as follows:—

2 bani	orange, yellow.
4 "	pale blue and indigo.
18 "	rose, brick red, & deep scarlet.

These variations of shade were the natural accompaniments of rough printing. In 1870 a fourth value appeared—the 3 bani mauve and bright mauve—and all four were in use concurrently with the emission of 1869, and are now with that of 1871.

These latter are alike in general appearance, but differ in one important particular—the portrait. The 1869 stamps bear the same whiskered profile as the earlier issues, but the 1871 set shows the Prince with a full beard.

The design of the 1869 series is annexed; its colours and values are as follows:—

5 bani	yellow, deep orange.
10 "	blue, deep blue, bright blue.
15 "	red.
25 "	orange, with oval blue.
50 "	blue, " " red.

The 1871 set reads:—

5 bani	vermilion.
5 "	carmine.
10 "	deep blue.
10 "	orange, yellow.
25 "	deep brown.

Very recently the 1871 type has been issued perforated, four values having appeared, viz.,

5 bani,	yellow.
10 "	blue.
15 "	vermilion.
25 "	brown.

The variation in the colours between the 5 and 10 bani is worthy of notice. In the 1869 set, and also in the new perforated stamps of the 1871 type, the 5 bani is found in yellow and orange, the 10 in blue, whilst in the unperforated 1871 issue the 5 bani takes the colour of the 15 bani, which latter is not represented at all, and the 10 bani comes out in the original hues of the 5 bani, as well as in blue.

The newspaper bands are all that now remain for notice. There have been two, of which the first, issued towards the close of 1870, had but a short circulation. The design, of which a tolerably faithful representa-

tion is here given, was lithographed in black, on green, bluish green, and yellowish green paper. The portrait is decidedly the most flattering of all that have appeared, there being an air of intelligence and decision about it, which is lacking in the subsequent profiles. In February, 1871, the current type was issued, with which my readers are, doubtless, familiar. It is printed in blue, on yellow paper. With reference to the change in portrait, it may be observed that, with the exception of the Portuguese, the Roumanian stamps are the only ones on which alterations in appearance, caused by age, are sought to be depicted.

THE PRUSSIAN SIEGE OF PARIS.

We have received, during the last month, communications from several correspondents confirming "Warden's" statement, in our May number, to the effect that the imperial stamps were used during the Prussian siege, and that down to as late a period as January, 1871. When we wrote we had not seen or heard of the arrival of any such stamps, and we had in mind Dr. Magnus's letter to *Le Timbre-Poste*, in which he described the perforated Republic type, of which the 10 and

20 c. were issued on the 13th October, 1870, as having been emitted at that early period of the siege in compliance with the wishes of certain ardent republican papers, and but very few balloons had left prior to that date.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SINTRA LEONE.—The new series, first referred to in our February number, has just made its appearance; and but for the circumstance of our engraver having disappointed us, we should now have the pleasure of giving our readers a representation of the highest denomination. The design is the same for all four of the new values, viz.:—

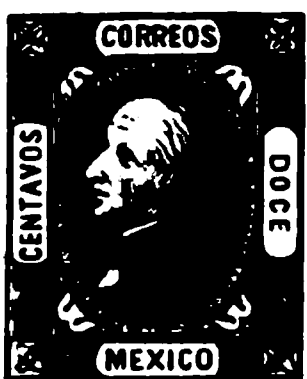
One penny	carmine-red
Threepence	nankin-yellow
Fourpence	blue
One shilling	light green

The old sixpence is maintained in design, but is now issued in deep lilac. The five stamps bear the crown and cc. watermark, but in the specimens before us it is placed transversely, and is by no means easy to distinguish. The portrait is the same as that on the St. Christopher, Straits Settlements, and other recent issues. On our examining the stamps of these colonies, we were struck with a slight but hitherto unnoticed peculiarity in the diadem. Between the points of the diadem the heraldic flowers are represented; there are, at any rate, two thistles and a shamrock to be seen. The crown on the 6 annas 8 pies Indian is of another pattern. The design of the new Sierra Leone stamps is exceedingly simple, we might almost say bald, but the execution and the colours are, as usual, of the highest degree of excellence.

GREAT BRITAIN.—With reference to the handstamped impressions described last month, and consisting of the names of towns followed by the words PENNY POST, a correspondent (H. C. R.) writes us that he possesses several, and one of them is struck on an envelope bearing the penny adhesive, and the date stamp, May 18, 1842. It would thus seem that the above inscription was a

mere supplementary postmark; but our Brighton contemporary, who also notices them, describes one, composed of the words PENRITH PENNY POST, as being handstamped on a letter received in 1834 by a clergyman at Bourne, in Lincolnshire, from Penrith in Cumberland; and, adds our *confrère*, "it was the sole mark on the letter, except that of the post town." This intelligence complicates the matter, which is becoming enigmatical, and we would fain solicit the assistance of Mr. Pearson Hill to obtain the solution.

MEXICO.—We have to thank Mr. W. P. Brown, of New York, for his courtesy in



sending us three specimens of an entirely new series for this country, which we believe we are the first to describe. Our illustration of the design is a flattering one, and obviates the necessity of a detailed description. The

execution of the originals is execrable, and the colours are no better. The three values are as follows:—

12 centavos	blue.
25 "	pale red.
50 "	dull yellow.

The 12 centavos is unperforated; the other two values are perforated, but in a rough way, and apparently only with a roulette. The most striking thing about them is their backs, which are covered with a ground of undulating light blue lines, forming, in the entire sheet, a kind of "shot" pattern. The upturned profile we presume to be that of the triumphant president, Juarez. The stamps from which we describe bear the imprint MEXICO in German text on the left, and "1—72" on the right; and from these figures we assume the issue began with the year. Probably a 6 c. and a 100 c. will shortly be forthcoming.

FRANCE.—On the 10th ult. the first specimen of the advanced guard of the new series came into our possession in the shape of a two-centime red-brown. Like the Bordeaux stamp of that value, it is a simple copy of the imperial 2 c., from which latter it differs only in the substitution of the 1848 engraved profile of the Republic for the emperor's

effigy, and in the change of inscription from EMPIRE FRANCAIS to REPUB. FRANC. The perforation is the same as before. We do not engrave this type, as a wood-cut could not make manifest the finish and the secondary details which distinguish the new-comer from its lithographed predecessors; but we may say that its general effect is very good, and the old profile appears to have been slightly touched up here and there. In view of recent announcements of a forthcoming series, the issue of this composite design may call forth some surprise, but it should be remembered that the object which is said to be sought after in the design of the projected stamps is the clear enunciation of the value. The existing stamps intended for letter postage are lacking in that essential particular, but the design of the imperial 1, 2, and 4 c. fulfils the condition of legibility, and—the distinction between letter and journal stamps being maintained,—it has consequently been reissued with the necessary alterations to suit the change of government. We look none the less certainly for a change in type in the forthcoming stamps of higher values, whilst we may safely predict that the 1848 profile of the republic will be utilised to form the centre piece in all.

The Belgian journal discusses the claims to credit of a 20 c. adhesive of the Bordeaux type surcharged with the figures 25, presumably on account of a lack of 25 c. stamps in the issuing office. We do not doubt that it is a humbug, although certain French fiscal stamps are found bearing similar surcharges; thus, the old lilac 20 c. "Timbre de dimension" has now the imprint "5 c. ~~EX~~ SUS," in black, running along the top, but then the addition is common to all the stamps now used.

PORTUGAL.—There is some talk, says *Le Timbre-Poste*, of issuing a new series of Portuguese stamps. It has been discovered that some of the post-office clerks have been in the habit of taking off the unused stamps employed to prepay letters passing through their hands, and substituting obliterated stamps in their place—the profit on the transaction going, of course, into the thieves' pockets. If this be the real reason for changing the type, it seems to us to be a

very droll one, for the dishonest clerks are sure to be careful to cash the stolen stamps before these latter are superseded.

CHILI.—We are indebted to the publishers of *The Philatelist* for the loan of the annexed cut, which is stated in our contemporary's last number to be an approximate representation of one of the intended new envelopes. The design is the same as that of the adhesives, except that the word COLON is

omitted. The stamp is embossed on white paper in the colour of the corresponding adhesive, and it is understood to be the production of a Chilian artist. We had hoped for better things.

TOLIMA.—To our Brighton contemporary belongs the credit of introducing to philatelic circles two higher denominations for this Colombian state. They are the 50 centavos and 1 peso, both bearing, as will be seen

from annexed engravings, the same arms as the 5 and 10 c., already noticed in this journal, but each characterised by a different disposition of the

same inscriptions. On the 50 c. the inscriptions above the arms are so oddly arranged, that at first they appear to read as CORREOS DEL ESTADO DE COLOMBIA. The colour of this stamp is a very dark green, that of the peso is an ineffective rosy-tinted red.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—M. Moens is firm in his belief of the genuineness of the design of which we gave an illustration last month, and has received information from Lisbon to the effect that it is perfectly authentic. It is said to have been made by an ironmonger's workman at Goa, and to have been in circulation since the beginning of the year. It is one of a series composed of the following values and colours:—

10 reis	black
20 "	vermilion-red
40 "	blue
100 "	green
200 "	yellow
300 "	bright violet
600 "	" "
900 "	" "

There are many varieties of shade, and at least one distinct type for each value. All the stamps seen by M. Moens are perforated 16, except two 20 reis—one perf. 13½; the other, 12½. These details come with telling force, and the fact that they are derived from Lisbon gives them additional weight; and yet we cannot say they inspire us with all the confidence we doubtless ought to feel. It seems to us rather strange that a colony which has a perforating machine at hand should be obliged to have recourse to an ironmonger for the dies for its stamps! Again, why such high values, as 300, 600, and 900 reis? and why should Goa be allowed to issue stamps when Madeira is denied the privilege of a separate device? No one but M. Moens appears to have seen these stamps, but he has had the opportunity of examining "a limited number." We hope he has not been deceived, and he will pardon us, should we find we have been erring on the side of incredulity.

HOLLAND.—The principle of "reply-paid" post cards has spread to Holland, and we have its first double card before us. It is folded across so as to form two leaves. On the face of each leaf is printed in lilac the same design as that on the single cards, with the stamp in the corner indicating the value; but the foot-note which appears on the single ones is not inserted on the double ones, and consequently an additional line is given for the address. The outer leaf shows under the word BRIEFKAART the inscription ANTWOORD BETAALD, and the inner one has VOORUITBETAALD ANTWOORD. The cards are buff, and the lilac is of a deeper tint than the impression on their single brethren.

From *Le Timbre-Poste* we get information of the issue of post cards by the Dutch General Service Society of Rotterdam, price 10 centimes each. They are to be delivered within the town of Rotterdam by

the society's messengers. We think that the simple mention of this issue is sufficient. It *may* be genuine, but we have no great confidence in it, and if private hand-delivered cards are once accepted, there will be a resurrection of Hamburg local makers, who will be ready to furnish us with Scheerenbeck cards, C. Van Diemen cards, Krantz cards, or other similar rubbish.

HUNGARY.—Money-order post cards, with inscriptions in two languages, have been issued with impressions from the die of the 5 and 10 kreuzer adhesives, respectively, in the corner; the former in light brown, and the latter in black. We defer recommending their acceptance until we obtain an explanation of the exact service performed by the stamps.* The correspondent from whom we have received notice of their issue also informs us that, after a few weeks' currency, they have been withdrawn to give place to similar cards with inscriptions in German only, and he points to this in proof of the centralising tendencies of the present Austro-Hungarian government, which he thinks are likely to lead to the suppression of the other cards with duplicate inscriptions in two languages.

ROUMANIA. — The current series, with bearded portrait, is now *perforated*. The values which have come over are the 5 bani yellow, 10 b. blue, 15 b. vermilion, and 25 b. brown.

NORWAY.—*Drontheim*.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 skilling have now reached us. The former is printed in blue, and the latter in green. The design is in all respects the same as that of the 1 skilling.

THE BLACK CABINET.

In a recent number we reviewed the second part of a work written by a M. Emile Lambry, an ex-employé of the French post-office, entitled *Les Mystères du Cabinet Noir sous l'Empire, et la poste sous la Commune*. Pursuant to the promise then made, we now

* [The desired explanation has since reached us, in the shape of a letter, which will be found in our correspondence columns; and it seems to us that a good case has been made out for accepting these interesting impressions. —Ed.]

purpose extracting some of the interesting, and we trust authentic, details given in the first part of the pamphlet respecting the Black Cabinet and its conductor.

The system of opening suspected letters is legally authorised in France to a limited extent only, and under conditions which, if complied with, would secure a proper amount of legal formality in the operations, and would therefore prevent any improper and secret espionage. Under Charles X. and Louis Philippe, letters were occasionally opened, and a "black cabinet," in which the business was carried on, existed; but the practice is believed not to have been carried to any outrageous extent, and under the *régime* of Arago, in 1848, it was suppressed, or, if it continued in existence, its operations were conducted unknown even to him, but under the empire it flourished, and acquired a bad pre-eminence.

The mysterious cabinet itself is described as a spacious, well lighted, but scantily-furnished chamber. Between its two windows is a nest of pigeon-holes, or frames, containing a number of cardboard boxes, which were filled with duplicates of the date stamps of all the French and most of the principal foreign post-offices, together with seals bearing all kinds of combinations of initials, and others with arms, and others again with odd devices. All that an engraver's imagination could invent *apropos* of the desired purpose is found in this cabinet, together with brushes and colours to bring back to its primitive shade the wax after it had been tampered with; and the work was done on a small library-table.

The dishonourable office of chief opener of letters was occupied by a man named Simonel, who, from M. Lambry's account, seems to have been singularly well-fitted for the post he held. At first Simonel only stopped letters in obedience to a list sent to him from the prefecture of police. These letters were put in a bag and forwarded to the prefecture, where they were opened and read. This proceeding was not illegal, as the prefect of police had, and still has, like the Home Secretary with us, a legal right to open any letters he thought fit. But M. Simonel had not been long in office, when he

was allowed to go a step further, and to open and read letters himself, on condition, it would seem, that he concealed the fact of their having been tampered with from those to whom they were addressed. Simonel's way of proceeding was as follows.

When a suspected letter fell into his hands, he inserted the point of a very thin knife, specially made for the purpose, under the seal; then, by dint of steady pressure, and thanks to the skill acquired by long practice, he removed the seal whole and without tearing the envelope. The letter read and, if necessary, copied, Simonel slightly warmed the bottom of the seal, so as to melt the wax sufficiently to attach it again to the paper. By this means he was enabled to defy detection. When letters were fastened with gum or a wafer, it was still easier to open them; a few drops of hot water were all that was necessary.

Foreign mail-bags passing through Paris were not respected, any more than letters to be delivered in France, by the unscrupulous Simonel, who had armed himself with a collection of the seals of every foreign government. He was even provided with different sorts of foreign string, in order to disarm suspicion. It was only in extreme cases, however, that he went so far as to cut the string with which mail-bags from abroad are fastened, as he generally contrived to strain it enough to allow him to open the bag and take out the contents. No letters were safe from his prying eyes, and even M. Rothschild's financial correspondence was read by the indefatigable head of the "Black Cabinet," who also was in the habit of opening all the Empress's letters to her friends, and submitting them to her imperial husband.

In the exercise of his disreputable functions he acquired such skill and used such judgment, that on examining the contents of the letter-bags which were brought to him from the general office, he frequently took on himself to open the correspondence of previously unsuspected persons, and found his examination rewarded by the discovery of news which, if not of a compromising character, was at least found to interest one or other of his numerous patrons. For, in fact,

M. Simonel worked for everyone. Often towards the close of the Empire he handed the letters of President Rouher to the Minister Ollivier, and those of the Minister Ollivier to the President Rouher.

Simonel was rarely defeated, and still more rarely discovered; yet there were occasions when he was nearly baffled. A diplomatist, having acquired the certainty that his correspondence was opened, inserted a minute steel point in the seal, producing a small hole in the impression, only visible with the aid of a magnifying glass. He addressed the letter to the minister of his own country, and, by telegraph, he requested the latter to return it to him. When it came back he found that the seal bore the same impression as when forwarded, but the hole made by the steel point was absent. Simonel had *missed the point* in one sense; the diplomatist did so in the other, and armed with this proof of tampering, he called on the post-master-general; but the latter, though at first taken aback, soon recovered his *sang froid*, and with admirable assurance replied simply, "That has not been done in France." That time Simonel escaped exposure.

During the Mexican expedition, the Emperor—not placing entire reliance on his generals' official communications—caused their private letters to be opened. A brigadier-general, who had reason to suspect that his letters to his wife were read before they reached her, wrote M. Simonel the following little note, which positively took the spy by surprise:—

To the Chief of the Black Cabinet,

SIR,—The first time that you allow yourself to open a letter to or from me, I shall give myself the pleasure of cutting your ears off.

(Signed)

GENERAL X.

Simonel posted off to an influential personage, a patron of his, to whom he showed the note. After glancing over it, the latter, with a shrug of the shoulder, consolingly replied,—“Sapristi, my friend, you had better take care of yourself; I know General X, and he is *quite capable* of cutting your ears off.” We may be sure Simonel took the advice.

Once only was the chief of the Black

Cabinet completely—to use a vulgar expression—"sold." A Fribourg paper published certain diatribes on the imperial family, of which an ex-professor at Paris was believed to be the author. Simonel set himself to work to find out the truth, and went personally to the Swiss frontier to investigate the matter. He was present when the letters were sorted in the country post-offices near Fribourg, and at the closing of the bags; he even journeyed in the travelling post-office of the Lyons railway, and inspected every letter that was flung in at the different stations along the line, but all to no purpose. He never suspected that the letters were conveyed from Paris to Lyons by an engine-stoker, and there delivered into the hands of a confidant.

A few years ago M. Vandal, the last Director-general of the post-office under the Empire, was interpellated in the Corps Législatif with regard to the existence of the "Cabinet Noir," on which occasion he indignantly denied that any department for the opening of letters existed at the Hôtel des Postes. Five deputies were named, at M. Vandal's request, to inspect the post-office personally, and certify to the correctness of his statement. Of course, when they came to make their inspection, M. Vandal was careful to show them all departments of the post-office, *except* the "Cabinet Noir." In conclusion, M. Lambry is careful to inform us that the present Republican government abstains from such evil work, and that as soon as M. Rampont came into office Simonel was dismissed. Let us hope so. There is something very French in the method of manipulation above related. We manage such things, for once, better in England.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

VII.

BROADWAY POST OFFICE.

FROM Mr. S. A. Taylor I get the following particulars concerning this post:—It was for many years located at 422½, Broadway, New York City. In 1850 it was owned or man-

aged by James C. Harriot; in the following year the proprietor was J. C. Dunham. It is doubtful how long it remained in the possession of the latter, but in 1858 it had passed into the hands of the Rev. B. Lockwood, who held it till 1860, when it became the property of Charles Miller, the last owner. It has now been closed some few years.

The rates charged were two cents for city delivery, and for letters carried to the general post-office; one cent for home letters, and two cents for foreign letters.

By special contract with Boyd's City Post, that express delivered the city letters of the Broadway post-office, the latter only employing one messenger, whose sole duty it was to go to and from the general post-office and Boyd's office.

The stamp was nicely executed, having for design a locomotive going to left, with BROAD-WAY arched in open letters above, and POST-OFFICE in outlined solid letters below. All within an oblong double linear octagon. Black on white, and also (according to Mr. Scott), gold on black.

There are two forgeries, both very generally circulated. The following are the chief points of difference between the original and the counterfeits:—

Genuine.—The outer frame is thick upon the left side, the bottom, and both lower angles; in other parts it is thin. The inner line is exactly the reverse. AD almost touches the frame. There is not much smoke from the engine, and what there is, is undulating, and below the lettering, until it comes between the first two letters of WAY. Lower inscription is very uneven, and *considerably* nearer to the line under locomotive than to the frame. OFFICE is at some distance from POST, and slants from it into the frame.

Forgeries.—There are two; the best has each line of the frame, respectively, of the same thickness throughout. The smoke is very marked under AD. Lower inscription about midway between the engine and the frame. Words close together. The other imitation is very poor, and can easily be detected by comparing with the test of the genuine.

MESSENGER UNION SQUARE POST-OFFICE.

A New York post. Stamp was a transverse oval, with lamp or fountain in centre, MESSENGER above, UNION SQUARE at sides of device, POST OFFICE below. Black on green glazed paper.

Genuine.—Name in thin fancy letters; address in thin upright capitals; POST OFFICE in thick letters. No stops anywhere. It is impossible to say, with any certainty, what the central device is, but it seems to be a figure within a basin, holding a staff of some kind, for the said staff can be traced in outline until it almost touches the second perpendicular stroke of N. Single-lined frame.

Forgery.—This may be instantly detected by having a double linear frame, and by the bad shape of the figure within the basin.

PIP'S DAILY MAIL.

This post was in existence about five years since. A very plain stamp was used. Within an oblong twisted frame is the inscription, in six lines, PIP'S DAILY MAIL. ONE CENT. GEO. ABRAHAM, STATIONER, 86, HAMILTON AVENUE, SOUTH BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Black on yellow.

„ pale fawn.

„ blue.

The last is the rarest, although none of the varieties are easily to be obtained.

GORDON'S CITY EXPRESS.

I am ignorant of the locality in which this post carried. The stamp was a double-lined circle, lettered with the name above and below, having a postman in the centre, and at sides the value, 2 CTS.; all within a circle of a single line. Black on green glazed paper.

Genuine.—Man's right hand in his pocket; head thrown somewhat back, causing the brim of hat to slant from the right; shading behind right leg almost upright, and on a level with about midway between the figure 2 and C of CITY; apostrophe after name is above the lettering; 2 flat, and at a little distance from the frame. The lower words at some distance from each other.

Forged.—Man's right hand is visible; head being thrown forward, the brim of hat slants considerably from the left; shading

behind right leg follows the lettering; figure 2 almost close to the circle.

PRINCE'S LETTER EXPRESS.

This post was until quite recently (if not still) in existence, for carrying mail matter between Portland (Maine) and Boston (Mass.). The proprietor was (or is) I. H. Prince, and the objects of the express are best explained by the following extract from the *American Stamp Mercury*:—

By the present mail arrangements between Portland and Boston, the afternoon mail closes in Portland at about 3 p.m.; consequently, letters posted after that hour have to wait the following mail, which is not made up until the next morning, and, in consequence, letters posted after 3 p.m. are not delivered in Boston until noon of the following day. To remedy this inconvenience Mr. Prince has a messenger, who, travelling by the steamer which leaves Portland at 6 p.m., takes charge of all letters which are handed to him for transmission to Boston; but which letters must, in the first place, have a United States 3 cent stamp affixed, in addition to which, Mr. Prince makes a charge of 2 cents for his trouble in conveying them to Boston, where, at an early hour (usually before 6 o'clock of the following morning), they are safely deposited in the Boston post-office, and are ready for delivery before 9 a.m., thus making a saving of three to four hours' time in transit, at an extra cost of two cents.

The stamp was engraved by Lowell & Brett, of Boston; design, a steamer, with LETTER EXPRESS above, and a fac-simile of Mr. Prince's signature below. The whole within a transverse oval. Black on white. This stamp does not appear to have been counterfeited.

BRAINARD & CO.

This firm started their express in or about 1845, conveying letters between New York, Albany, Troy, and the intermediate places. Only one stamp was emitted; this is found in black and in blue, always upon white. The design is very simple, consisting of a large ring, lettered BRAINARD & CO., N.Y. 58, WALL ST., and having in the centre 14, EXCHANGE, ALBANY, 20 FOR ONE DOLL., TROY, 230, RIVER ST.

There is a really first-class imitation, only to be detected by careful scrutiny.

Genuine.—B and R of name very close together, D rather narrow; the 8 only slightly larger above than below; lettering of WALL ST. thin, and the T of ST. of less height than the preceding letter; 14, EXCHANGE in small type; very fine period after

ALBANY, and again after TROY, the letters in each of these words small and separate; a slight speck after FOR; period after DOLL. on a line with the period after CO.; 230 RIVER ST. same size type as that of upper address; numeral 0 exactly under central stroke of r; some space between RIVER and ST.; bottom of v flat.

Forgery.—No period after either ALBANY or TROY, and no speck after FOR.; D of name wide. Other details the reverse of what they are in the genuine. In addition to this deceptive counterfeit, there is an imitation from a rather poor wood-block. It varies from its archetype in the same points as the better imposture.

WESTERVELT'S POST.

For a long time, like most European collectors, my faith in the stamps of this post—in fact, I may add, in the post itself—was but little. However, from the evidence of used specimens, and of a communication from the proprietor himself, I am bound to acknowledge the existence, at one time, of the dispatch, and the authenticity of its stamps.

In 1861, C. H. Westervelt established a post between the villages of Chester, Chester Depôt, and East Chester, all in Orange county, state of New York. This concern was carried on until 1868, and during that time three distinct types of adhesives, and one for envelopes, were emitted.

All these were printed upon any paper that came handy, and each variety was of equal value in the eyes of the proprietor; but, let it be distinctly understood, *they were all used for franking letters*, and should, therefore, be collected.

The following is a list of the types and colours:—

1.—WESTERVELT'S POST, CHESTER, N.Y., in three lines, within a fancy chain frame. Obl. rect.

Red on yellow.

Black „ lavender.

„ „ fawn.

2.—Profile to left of Indian chieftess; WESTERVELT'S above; POST below; CHESTER, N.Y., at sides. All within a fancy frame. Rect.

Red on yellow.

„ „ fawn.

„ „ white.

Black „ yellow.

„ „ fawn.

„ „ white.

3.—Full-face portrait of General Grant, within a solid oval, inscribed with name and address, as before. In spandrels the figure 2; below, CENTS with numerals, again repeated on each side. Rect.

Red on yellow.

„ „ drab.

Black „ yellow.

„ „ white.

„ „ pink.

„ „ green.

„ „ deep rose.

„ „ blue letter-paper.

Envelope.—American eagle within an oval band, lettered as on the adhesives; a star at each side; oval, upon various papers.

Black.

Red.

There are some labels purporting to be of the first type, but they are very different in the frame, there being eight large ornaments above and below, instead of twelve small ones, as in the genuine.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE Green Bay post-office officials do not like to answer questions. The following, posted over the general delivery, expresses their sentiments: "Price of three-cent stamps, three cents each; licked and stuck, five cents each. The clock will answer the question, "Has the mail closed?"—*New York Herald*.

LOOKING AFTER THE BAWBEES.—In Edinburgh, says the *Courant*, the demand for halfpenny post cards was so great on Saturday, the 30th March last, that many would-be purchasers had to leave the post-office without procuring the quantities they required, the answer being, "Sold out." The cause of this unusual crowd of purchasers was the announcement, that on and after April 1st the charge for these cards would be increased one halfpenny per dozen.

LETTER ADDRESSES IN JAPAN.—A correspondent at Niogo informs us that for letters going through the Japanese post the address must be written in Japanese, as well as in English. To exemplify the way in which the regulation to this effect is complied with, he sends us the envelope of a letter. On the envelope itself is written, in English, the address of the person to whom it is sent (a resident in another part of Japan), and over this address is a slip of the usual fibrous tissue paper used there, gummed down to the envelope on one side, and bearing the address in Japanese characters; this can be lifted up, so as to disclose the English inscription beneath. The stamps

are fastened over the flap of the envelope. They are two in number, the indigo and the vermilion, and our correspondent states that they are worth, together, three cents, or three halfpence English, so that it would appear we have all of us been out in our calculations respecting the denominations of the Japanese stamps.

POSTAL INNOVATIONS ON THE CONTINENT.—We learn from *Le Petit Moniteur* that the French postal department has established, in connection with every railway train, a dépôt of postage stamps and *stamped envelopes*, at the disposal, and for the convenience of travellers. It appears this novel extension of the system was introduced and has been practised by the German post-office since the 1st ult. The latter also gave public notice, on 27th March last, that subscriptions would be received in all the post-offices in the German empire, "not only to German newspapers, but also to all the principal journals and reviews published in France, England, Poland, Russia, Spain, &c., &c. The officials, at all the post-office windows, will be ready to give every necessary information, and will communicate a list of the prices of the journals to all who may request it. The journals for which subscriptions may be received will be forwarded through the post to the subscribers by the quickest route." This is really an important measure; no doubt the public will appreciate it; and we question whether the booksellers and newspaper agents will not also hold a strong opinion about it; but, probably, the scheme is intended principally for the benefit of the inhabitants of the smaller towns and the country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SUEZ CANAL STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—The editor of Gray's Catalogue, 5th edition, takes exception to the Suez Canal stamps. I beg to say I have a postmarked 20 c., whose pedigree is irreproachable. The above catalogue is so deservedly widely circulated, and Mr. Overy Taylor generally so trustworthy a mentor, that it is all the more important to establish the true character of the accused.

Yours truly,
WARDEN.

THE RUSSIAN LOCALS AND FINNISH STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. John Siewert, is quite right in his description of the Valdai hills, and allow me to remark further, that the arms depicted on the stamp are that of the district—the peak in allusion to the hills, and the other part, the imperial crown and ground of ermine, of the government of Novgorod. It is well known in history that Novgorod was the oldest grand-duchy of Russia; and the Russians date the establishment of their empire from 862, when Ruric established his government in Novgorod.

There is nothing strange in the Finland post cards being issued before those of Russia. In the first place, the new style is used there, hence a difference of twelve days; and secondly, they are governed by a different constitution, have another language, religion, and monetary value, and nothing in common with the Russians but being subjects of one empire.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

YOUR ST. PETERSBURG CORRESPONDENT.

AN AMERICAN COLLECTOR ON THE RECENT AUCTION SALE.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I was very glad to see your article on the recent *auction sale*. I question very seriously the genuineness of various bids in behalf of "*American orders or parties*," since collecting is not pursued here as with you, nor by persons who are accustomed to pay *such* prices, except in a very few cases; while those very persons, most probably, had the same opportunity that I had months ago of buying such stamps of "Scott & Co.," and would hardly leave the prices to the chances of an auction sale "across the water."

I think we have had enough of Confederate local or city stamps brought to light, in mysterious ways, to prevent our accepting such, unless on the most direct and positive proof. I chanced to secure the only two Livingston, Ala., provisional stamps that I ever saw or heard of, one for myself and the other for a fellow-collector, both being on one envelope, duly postmarked, dated, &c.; but had I not received them from a young man well known to me, who discovered them in a file of old letters, I should have doubted their genuineness.

There is a singular mystery about those "St. Louis" stamps, and it is incomprehensible to me how their use, in such a city, could be confined to so very select a few, and those few apparently dealers.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

F. F.

Cambridge, Mass.

GERMAN MONEY-ORDER CARDS AND ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The answers to the queries by L. O., of Bedford, in the "Correspondence" column of last number, are easily to be obtained from the objects themselves.

1.—The stamps impressed on the money-order cards do indeed represent the postage and the fee combined; no other charge is made for the remittance, but the postage is varying according to the amount remitted; for instance, in Austria the scale is as follows:—

Up to	10 florins,	5 kreuzer.
From	10	to 50 florins 10
"	50	" to 100 " 15
"	100	" to 500 " 30
"	500	" to 1000 " 60
"	1000	" to 2000 " 90
"	2000	" to 3000 " 1 fl. 20 krs.
"	3000	" to 4000 " 1 " 50
"	4000	" to 5000 " 1 " 80

As there are only cards with 5 kr. stamps impressed on them, higher postage must be made up by supplementary adhesives, for which the right margin under the stamp is destined.

2.—The card or envelope is sent by the person who obtains the money-order, and the amount is paid to the bearer of the card or envelope, provided with his signature, without any legitimation.

3.—Private communications are allowed to be written on the left space (coupon) of the cards and the interior of the envelopes; the coupon may be cut off, and the letter be taken out from the envelope by the receiver before presentation; but in the latter case the public are warned against tearing the flap, the receipt being written on it. I should add, that imperial postage stamps and envelopes having been introduced in Wurtemberg, the

local money-order envelopes are withdrawn from circulation.

Speaking of money-order cards, I may as well mention the "*Post-mandat Karte*" in Germany and Hungary. Against a fee of 5 sgr. or 10 kreuzer, the post-office undertakes to obtain any stated amount from any person indicated on the card, and remits the money to the sender of the card (if it be paid) by money-order, less the ordinary fee for it. The mandate is to be forwarded by the obtainer to the post-office where the debtor lives, in an envelope bearing the inscription *POST MANDAT*, which in this case is considered as a registered letter, without being liable to the registration fee. Postage is at the charge of the obtainer of the order.

The German post-mandate card is green, and bears no stamp, but only a square destined for it. The Hungarian post-mandate is also green, of very thin cardboard, and has the 10 kr. adhesive printed on it, but in black colour.

I must again apologise for my bad style in using your language; it is more than eight years that I am gone from hospitable England, and I have but rarely opportunities of practising it; but I hope you will accept my good will for the deed.

Yours very truly,
Gablonz, a.d. Neisse, MAX JOSEPH.
Bohemia.

[Does the post-office which receives the "post-mandat" apply for payment to the person on whom the sender draws? If the money-orders are paid to bearers of cards or envelopes, without any proof of identity, such a mode of transmitting money seems to offer very insufficient guarantees.—Ed.]

STAMP CATALOGUING.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the not improbable event of new editions shortly appearing of more than one stamp catalogue, more especially Dr. Gray's, there may, perhaps, be no harm in drawing attention to a few points, wherein I think most collectors will agree with me in considering the latter might be improved; at least be made more thoroughly what it professes to be—a work for "the great body of collectors," and so far independent of other catalogues. As it stands at present, it is too often necessary for many of these collectors to have recourse elsewhere for information, such as, doubtless, Berger Levraut (in English, when we get it), or Mr. Pemberton's promised catalogue—to the appearance of which we all look forward with pleasure—would supply; but, in truth, Dr. Gray's catalogue, and such as these, appeal mainly to different classes, and should be each complete in itself.

In the first place then, if Mr. Taylor were just a little to relax his rule regarding the exclusion of certain varieties, it seems to me he would more generally meet the views of "the great body." Not by any means that I would favour the admission of any of the eccentricities of perforation, paper, and watermark, to be found chiefly in our own colonies, or of the numerous varieties in shade (so much noticed in recent monographs), which are usually quite unauthorised and accidental, and whose place is elsewhere; but simply because I think that the majority of collectors regard as distinct, for instance, a series of rouletted stamps and a series issued at a different time and perforated in the usual manner—more generally, one where mere incisions are made, and one where portions of the stamp are removed—as denoting two different stages of improvement in the process; a series perforated 9 and another 14; a series with the colours light or the paper thin, and one with dark colours or thick paper:

just as much, at any rate, as they look on stamps watermarked with a star as differing from stamps with a crown, or watermarked with a large figure, from others with a small one. In fact, I think Mr. Taylor could not do better than admit into the catalogue such varieties as he usually notices in his "*Papers for Beginners*," unless, indeed, he should continue to transgress that title, as in the last two or three numbers. At all events, let there be consistency; if a distinction is made in one place, it should be kept up throughout.

Again, for completeness sake, let the United States locals be once more included: now, at last, there seems some possibility of discriminating between the good and the bad, and we shall require to have summarised the results arrived at by the various writers in the magazines. I must here, too, renew my plea for certain newspaper stamps. What is there, I should like to know, peculiar to our lately deceased *ld. red*, save the simple fact of its being impressed on each paper—as distinguished from dozens usually included in catalogues—to prevent its being collected? or in what respect are the stamps of our own *Times* inferior to those of the Fijian? It is needless to mention many others to which the same remarks apply.

Nothing would be of more value to the young collector than a complete list, with illustrations, of all the spurious stamps that have from time to time been issued. I am not aware of such having ever appeared. Of course I do not allude to forgeries—they must be described by themselves—but to purely fictitious stamps, that have originated in the brain of some speculator on credulity. Perhaps no better check could be put to the indiscriminate sale of forgeries proper than by adopting—to a less extent certainly, and in a modified form, to avoid the confusion arising from many symbols—Bellars and Davie's plan of indicating, throughout the catalogue, the relative rarity of the less common stamps, and so rendering it less easy to deceive by low-priced shams. There could, at any rate, be no harm in increasing the number of the explanatory foot-notes, which are often of great interest and value.

If engravings of all distinct species were given, and not those alone that have previously appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*; if different types were used to enliven the page, and distinguish species and secondary varieties; if a *complete* money-table (an article which, strangely enough, has never yet been produced) were added; if the binding were improved, and ready-made interleaved copies sold at an advance, as in Mount Brown's time, there would, I think, be little left to be desired. Last, though not least (to the publishers, at any rate), the price would have to be raised, say, to half-a-crown, which I am sure no philatelist would grudge for a truly reliable and complete catalogue.

These few hints have been put together to further what seems to be the prevalent opinion among a large class of collectors, and by no means to push forward ideas of my own. I trust they may not be altogether out of place.

Nairn.

Yours faithfully,

P. I. A.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. C. DE C., Torquay.—We notice your communication, together with those of other friends, in another part of the number, and are obliged for the information it contains.

W. E. B. wishes to know whether the stamps of the Papal States are still in use, and if so, under what conditions. Does a letter from the Vatican cost more for postage than one from the Quirinal?

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—I.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

INTRODUCTION.

It has been to us a matter of regret that in those excellent papers by Mr. Overy Taylor, he has not descended a little deeper into the mine of philatelic lore; but he is doing essential service in giving general and accurate reviews of the various issues of the stamps in each country, and their several types. He thus clears the ground, and lays a foundation whereon a collector may commence to select and arrange his specimens, without having before his eyes the fear either of spending his time or his money in vain; or of having to pull his work to pieces and begin over again. The various issues and types of several European countries having thus been described in the "Papers for Beginners," it will be our object to follow in the wake of Mr. Overy Taylor, and to take our readers a few steps deeper than he has done into the study of the varieties of these types; and in making this attempt we must ask for their kind consideration. We do not pretend to any mastership in the craft, but we have, in the course of re-arranging our own specimens, been forcibly led to a patient study of them; what, therefore, we have to communicate will partly consist of the results of these investigations, and partly of an examination of the investigations of others; though, as far as possible, we shall avoid ploughing with another man's yoke.

There is ample room for study, for there is much yet to be made clear, and much which at present must necessarily be left to conjecture. The inroad of the postal system in the various countries of the world has been gradual and silent, so that oftentimes we are unable to trace its entry. Sometimes some sudden convulsion—political or other—arrests an issue in its course, and supersedes it by a fresh one, condemning the residue of the former one to destruction. There is but little difficulty in fixing precise dates, &c., in such a case; but how much more frequently does it happen that one issue supersedes a preceding one by a process resembling nothing so much as a dissolving

view, where, in the course of the transmutation of the tableaux, the outlines of the receding view are mixed up in strange confusion with those of the advancing one? We have only to turn to the pages of this magazine to see how much the history even of our own stamps has given rise to controversy. For some time general uncertainty prevailed even as to the date of the issue of the original 1d. adhesive stamp. When the substitution of the twopence, with horizontal lines, for the original twopence took place is still a matter of doubt, and philatelists are not agreed within twelve years as to the proper date to be assigned to the issue of the embossed sixpence; whilst we may look in vain for evidence to support the following dates, as given by M. Berger-Levrault and others:—"1850, 1d. red-brown; 2d. blue, fil., small crown, perforated 16. November, 1854, same; fil. large crown, perforated 14," and endeavour to reconcile the one with the first employment of Archer's machine, and the other with that assigned as the retouching of the dies by Humphreys. If these dates are right, we ought to be able to find a one-penny stamp, fil. large crown, perforated 14, taken from the die before retouch; a variety yet to be discovered. But if difficulties are to be found so near home, what can we expect when we have to travel farther, and examine the stamps of distant countries? For the most part we find as yet but few official documents to aid us; we are puzzled by all kinds of conflicting statements. If we apply to any officials for information, and an answer is vouchsafed, the information can be relied upon but seldom; how much more frequently no reply is given, and the petitioner is looked upon as asking for information he has no business with; while, if he asks it as an "amateur of postage stamps," the reply, if any, will almost infallibly be addressed to him at Hanwell or at Charenton.

In their researches our readers must, therefore, in a great degree, bring their own intelligence to the work; and our principal object in these notes will be to induce them to enter upon a patient and minute examination of the specimens of the stamps of each country which they possess, with a view to a methodical classification of them, and to

direct them in the choice of interesting varieties, and such as may appear to be useful in elucidating points which are still attended with doubt and mystery.

We might as well imagine that by studying anatomy on paper we could arrive at discoveries in its science, or at facility in the use of the scalpel, as that we can do much in the study of philately without the aid of a good selection of specimens. In the choice of our own specimens we have been guided by one principal rule—never to reject anything which may tend to exhibit the history of a stamp, and the different phases which it has gone through. Now, the three principal elements upon which varieties depend, are, the paper employed in the fabrication of the stamps, the colour of the impression, and the mode in which the separation of the stamps from each other is effected, whether by mechanism or by the hand. Two other points are also worthy of attention, which are,—the kind of gum employed for rendering the stamps adhesive, and the various marks which have been employed during the existence of the stamp for obliterating it, and rendering it unserviceable for a second employ.

Paper.—When we consider the different kinds of paper employed for the manufacture of stamps we may well accord to it the first place among the elements of varieties. At one time the paper is coloured, at another white; at one time it is a hard hand-made paper, at another soft and cottony; at one time thick, at another thin as tissue paper; at one time with some special watermark, and at another with simple parallel lines, or what is called “laid” paper. All these are differences to be observed, and observed closely, as the employment or non-employment of any particular kind may serve to furnish internal evidence of a point in the history of a stamp which cannot be supplied from other sources. Thus the presence or absence of a watermark enables us at once to discern between the first issue for Prussia and a worthless reprint. The difference of paper, whether laid or plain, enables us to classify our first issues of Canadian stamps into the early and the later portion of the issue; and very numerous other examples might be

mentioned, which we refrain from giving, as they will be brought individually before our readers in the course of these notes.

Again: the *colour* of the impression is an essential element of variety. A distinction must, however, be drawn between shades of a normal colour and different depths of the same colour. As a general rule we avoid, as far as possible, overloading our collection with these latter when they arise from causes solely dependent on the working off of the impression. Such varieties, and those akin to them, as inverted watermarks, double perforations, &c., we leave to fanciful collectors, who must necessarily feel but little interest in star and such-like watermarks, which can present so little value to them in comparison with stamps such as those of British Guiana, where they may possibly discover a portion of T. H. SAUNDERS upside down. Such varieties only show the unskilfulness of the workman, or an oversight on his part, and are not incidents in the history of the stamp. But where the shade varies in character—where, for instance, it is Prussian blue at one time and ultramarine blue at another—it is worthy of collection. In making, however, a selection of shades it must be borne in mind that the colours used in the printing of stamps are most frequently compound colours. The exact tint of to-day may be varied to-morrow, and the day following the tint may be again that of to-day. As far as possible we shall endeavour to catalogue only such fortuitous shades as are of any interest, though we scarcely hope to arrive at accurate descriptions of those intricate shades which we are constantly meeting with in postage stamps.

The chief difficulty in the description of shades arises from this, that philatelists have no standards of colour to start from, and it would seem impossible to arrive at this, unless by some common action amongst themselves. The colour-box is of no use, for even in a common colour like vermilion we could find two or three tinges of colour, according as it came from England or from France, from Rathbone-place or from Soho-square. We are aware that it is in contemplation to form a code of colours for philatelists, and with the present facilities of printing by the

chromo-lithographic process, this surely is not an impossibility; without something of this kind no general catalogue can ever succeed in chronicling the various shades. Take for example the interesting paper on "The Stamps of Trinidad," in the April number of *The Philatetical Journal*. The normal colours of the sixpence and shilling of the issue of 1865 are given as green and purple. But to find the normal colour we have to hunt about among the heights and depths before we discover it; whereas, if we had a fixed code of colours we could at once find our starting-point. It is true that there are some colours which are peculiar to stamps, as for instance what is called *bistre* in the French catalogues; but which has no more relation to the *bistre* of the colour makers than vermilion has to carmine, except that in one both are browns, and in the other both are red. But for special colours special names might be given. As artists adopt names of great painters to denote particular shades, such as Vandyck brown, Rubens' madder, &c., why should not philatelists have Magnus's brown, Pemberton's purple, Viner's grey, &c.? which last might be of great service in the task of enumerating the shades of the block-printed Trinidads.

The mode in which the stamps are to be separated from each other is also an important element in the classification of their varieties. The time when no distinction was made between perforated and unperforated stamps has long passed away. Perforations are no longer cut off in order to straighten the edges of the specimens. The numbers of the holes, within a given space, are now all counted, and we classify our specimens accordingly.

The *gumming* of adhesive stamps is also a point worthy of examination. Let all collectors avoid, as much as possible, cleaning off the original gum. Our own experience is that at times it is next to impossible to mount or to preserve specimens without doing so; or even to obtain specimens which have the original gum still upon them; but as far as is practicable, it is well to avoid putting the specimens into water, except for examining the texture of the paper. We cannot at this moment refer to it, but we

well recollect seeing, in the pages of this magazine, a letter from a Goth, containing a receipt for cleaning off that "unsightly pink gum" from the Hanoverian stamps, by a process of soda and hot water. After this had been done, what was left to show the difference between the originals and the reprints in the older series, or to show the place in his collection for the later series?

Lastly, for the purpose of study, there is nothing like the aid of some well-chosen obliterated specimens. When gold-fields in the Confederate States are being daily discovered; when reprints are being every day foisted on collectors; when dealers in stamps are becoming almost as clever as dealers in pictures by old masters—it is a comfort to a collector to be able to compare his specimens with a good honestly obliterated stamp. To a certain extent the successive modes of obliteration adopted in a country enable us also to arrive at some approximate idea as to the period when the stamp was current. A common instance of this may occur to everyone in the case of the Maltese-cross obliterating mark on our own early stamps, first in red and then in black. Dr. Magnus, in his classification of the stamps of Victoria, found the obliterating marks a most important guide to him in his labours. It is true that such marks are not to be depended upon exclusively, for we have ourselves found a threepence of the current series bearing one of the oldest obliterations; yet an exception does not destroy the rule, and none can deny that they are great and essential aids.

After this introduction, we will, in our next paper, proceed to make some notes on the first series of the stamps of Austria.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—*Mexico—Japan—Hawaii—Morton & Co.*]

The Philatetical Journal.—We have perused with considerable interest an able paper in the May number of this journal, on the surcharging of the Mexican stamps. Papers like this, breaking up fresh ground, and in which fresh subjects are ventilated, give additional interest to philately, and induce col-

lectors not only to examine their own specimens, but also to think for themselves. The paper in question is evidently the work of the editor. It is well that such a subject as the Mexican stamps should have been taken up by so experienced a philatelist, and we trust it is not the last paper which we shall see on these difficult stamps from the same source. There are still the provisional Guadalajara stamps, and the types of the 1868 series, to be dealt with.

Perhaps not one collector in twenty ever gave himself the trouble to think what the surcharging on the Mexican stamps meant. The great mass had, doubtless, some floating idea that the figures had something to do with the date of issue, but that was about all. The investigations, however, of the author of the paper in *The Philatelic Journal* point out their true object, which no doubt was the establishment of an administrative control over the quantities employed.

A correspondent has forwarded to us some notes which he has made on this paper, and we are sure that it will be gratifying to the author of the latter to find that it has had the effect of drawing the attention of other philatelists to the subject, and producing communications from them.

Some three or four years ago, I collected together a considerable number of Mexican stamps, and am able to make a few additions to the lists given in *The Philatelic Journal*. For instance, in the Hidalgo series, the following may be added to the names of towns, in Roman capitals at the side:—HUEJUTLA, in black on colour, and colour on white; TLALPUJAHUA; TIXTLAN, GUERRERO; and TULA—colour on white; and VICTORIA DE TAMPAS—a contraction for Tamaulipas—black on colour; the names being in large Roman capitals.

With regard to the stamps surcharged MEXICO, I have never found any copies of the first series, colour on white, surcharged in block capitals or Egyptian type; but the series black on colour and colour on colour are found surcharged with this type, in two sizes.

In the eagle series it seems probable that the figures were not printed upon those first issued, for many copies are found without figures, especially amongst the older shades. I take exception to the mode of spelling CUERNAVACA; it is not spelt "Quernavaga," either on the stamps or on the French map of Mexico. I could add several names also to the list of 39, given by *The Philatelic Journal*; but some of them—like Pubanco—are to be found on the stamp but not on the map. It is probable that during the French occupation many small offices, which neither before nor after it issued stamps, received their supplies from head-quarters; for it appears to be perfectly clear that the figures were printed at the head issuing office, and that those preceding the date

were the numbers corresponding in the books with the particular dispatch of stamps. For example, if the office at Vera Cruz wanted a supply of 1, 2, and 4 reales stamps, these sheets would all be stamped at the head office with the same number, and in the books, under this number, would be entered so many sheets of 1, 2, and 4 reales, despatched at such a time to Vera Cruz. That the surcharging of the stamps with the figures is done at a head issuing office seems to be evident from the fact mentioned by the author of the paper, that during the early part of 1864 the surcharged figures were in heavy block type, and later on the figures are ordinary Roman; and he mentions finding that this change took place between the numbers 177 and 183. I find that 178 was a dispatch to Tula, 179 to Puebla, both in the heavy type, and that 180 was a dispatch to Vera Cruz, in the Roman type, which was then employed for all future dispatches; for though I have not a copy of 181, yet I have 182, and many subsequent numbers, all in ordinary Roman type. That the number was not peculiar to one value, is evident from the circumstance of different values being found stamped with the same name and with the same figures.

Before the stamps were issued to the public, they were stamped with the name of the issuing office: but it is evident that not unfrequently this was omitted. Some offices seem also to have been unprovided with the necessary stamp, as I have found the name, in more than one case, written upon the stamp. I do not see that much notice need be taken as to whether the name was stamped on the side, the bottom, or the top. It is ordinarily at the side; but there are many variations from the list, as given in *The Philatelic Journal*.

The question, then, as to the meaning of the figures surcharged on these stamps is, I think, pretty clearly solved, but the *raison d'être* of the names does not appear to me to be so easy of solution. At one time the author of the paper calls them the "names of towns or districts;" at another, the "name of state." If, by the latter expression he means the provinces which make up the Mexican republic, I think he is wrong, as there are many names in the lists which are not the names of provinces, nor even of departments. According to the statistical tables of M. Garcia y Cubas, published in Mexico in 1870, the country is divided into 27 states. In every one of these states the name of one town at least is represented on the stamps, and in some, two, three, or more. Does not this point rather to a species of postal district, some particular town in which is the seat of the office deriving its supplies from head-quarters, and with which the head office keeps its account, and which in its turn supplies the wants of the particular district?

When the Maximilian series was issued—although this took place in the middle of the year 1866—yet a fresh series of numbers was printed upon them, no longer on the side, but at the top of the stamp. The lithographed series was probably issued in July, for though I have a copy of the 12 cents. numbered 3, yet the earliest number which I have with a dated postmark is numbered issued as 12, and postmarked August 2. The engraved series was a continuation of, and issued in conjunction with, the lithographed series. The earliest specimen of the engraved series which I have is numbered 112—66; the latest in that year, 139; and I have a lithographed copy of the 7 cent. also bearing this latter date.

My notes are already growing too long, and I will therefore only make a few remarks upon the list of the 1868 series. I have found neither 15 nor 32. My copy of the 27 is also illegible. Number 29 is Tula de Tampas—so called, I suppose, to distinguish it from the other Tula in the province of Mexico—and 34 is Maravatio. Why

Guadalajara should have had two numbers is an enigma. I find copies dated '69, numbered 41, but no successor to its earlier number 3. Jalapa is also numbered 44, instead of 14; I take this to be an error of the printer, in using a 4 for a 1; nevertheless, it is an unmistakable 4.

The new issue seems to bring in a new series of check figures, though Mexico is still No. 1; yet I see, from *The Philatelist*, that Vera Cruz is No. 70. We shall soon have enough and to spare of Mexican stamps. The 41 numbers do not exhaust the varieties of the 1868 series. If anyone thinks so, let him study the figures of 2, for instance, on the 12 centavos, and he will see that in Mexico they know at least half-a-dozen different ways of making that figure.

It will be seen that our correspondent agrees with the author of the paper in *The Philatelic Journal*, when he says that the system of varying the numbers on the eagle series "evidently pointed to some plan for checking the quantities issued." With that, we think, all the interest of the figures ends, except so far as they may tend to fix the date of any changes in the colours of the impressions. As for the additional disfigurement caused by stamping the name of the town upon the stamp, the only interest we can see in the difference between a stamp purchased at the office in Vera Cruz, and one purchased in Puebla, is pretty much the same interest as between a penny stamp purchased in Bath, and another purchased in Bristol.

Of the remaining contents of the May number, the only article calling for special remark is that of the Rev. R. B. Earée, on "Japanese Stamps and Numerals," which is exceedingly interesting. It exposes the inaccuracies of the paper published in the March number of *Le Timbre-Poste* on the same subject. According to the latter, the Japanese stamps should be mounted with the dragon's head downwards. This struck us at the time as a very droll inversion, but we bowed to the authority of the foreign journal, and contented ourselves with chronicling its statement. Mr. Earée now says that the numerals which illustrated the article in *Le Timbre-Poste* were all *upside down*, and the argument derived from their position is conclusively refuted. He then gives a series of engravings of the numerals as they should be written, and accompanies it with a very lucid explanation. The arithmetical system of the Japanese is exceedingly cumbrous, as will be seen from the

fact, that to express the number 259, they must employ five of their figures, disposed one under the other, in the following order.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 100 \\ 5 \\ 10 \\ 9 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 100 \\ 5 \\ 10 \\ 9 \end{array}} \right\} \text{ i.e., } 100 \times 2 + 10 \times 5 + 9 = 259$$

"Fancy," says the author of the paper, "a compound long-division sum in Japanese!"

The article on "Novelties" is replete with information; and in the continuation of his article on the Hawaiian emissions, Mr. Atlee demonstrates that the figure stamps form a provisional series issued for local postage, and are *not*, as had been supposed, unpaid-letter, or additional postage stamps. The "Cream of the Magazines" and the "Reviews" are both very readable, but why the discussion of the contents of contemporary papers should be inserted under two different headings, we cannot understand. As a general rule, reviews are supposed to extend to new publications only.

The Philatelist for May is principally remarkable for a paper, by "Warden," on "The Stamps of Saint Domingo," which forms the first attempt at the establishment of a discriminative catalogue of the perplexing emissions of that republic. We doubt not but that our readers will thank us for having transferred this article bodily to the columns of our present number. Both the May and June numbers contain instalments of "A Parisian Collector's" monograph on "The Envelopes of Germany," and Mr. Atlee's "Spud Papers." In the latter, the forgeries of Brunswick and Uruguay are carefully treated, the descriptions being accompanied, as usual, by specimens of the counterfeits themselves. The editor continues to discourse on telegraph stamps, and is gradually forming a descriptive list, which will prove of great value to all who intend forming a collection of these semi-postal labels. We hope the learned author will publish the list as a separate work when complete; nothing would give such a fillip to the collection of telegraph stamps as the possession of a catalogue.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The May and June numbers present very few noticeable features.

The former contains an article on the Morton stamps ; but the documentary evidence which was to establish their lack of value is not forthcoming. The editor confines himself to the endeavour to prove that they are simply the fruits of a speculation on the part of Mr. Panopoulo. He establishes, at best, but a suspicion against the stamps. Mr. Panopoulo evidently desires to push the sale of them, but such desire is not incompatible with the hypothesis of their genuineness as a postal emission. The fact is that very few locals are entirely free from the taint of speculation. When we find that the officials of various state post-offices—those of Hawaii, Buenos Ayres, &c.—engage in the sale of obsolete stamps,—when we find also that the stock of old German stamps was disposed of “at a sacrifice”—we need not be surprised if the director of a private office seeks to augment his or its revenue by vending its emissions *en masse* to collectors. We should certainly think more of the Morton stamps if they were not put up for sale in this way, but we see no reason to question their being really in use, and in this connection we cannot overlook the fact that nearly two years ago we received a letter from a correspondent at Constantinople announcing the emission and enclosing specimens. Further independent testimony would certainly strengthen the case in their favour, but M. Moens' strictures are but slightly justified by his arguments. He states that specimens of the first round type, that without steamer, are made by sticking a bit of paper over the steamer, above the word FRANCO; and that specimens of the second round type, that with steamer, are made by that part of the stamp being left uncovered; for, he says, many of the specimens of the first type show traces of parts of the steamer which have been imperfectly covered. This we know, from another source, to be the fact, and it is not a very reputable one; but we must, in justice, say we have seen, and still possess, specimens of the first type, innocent of any traces of the apposition of a piece of paper. M. Moens objects also that no trace of gum is found on the backs of these circular stamps, but the same objection would tell with equal force against any recognized genuine stamp

which was not gummed. Let it be understood, we do not impugn M. Moens' motive in questioning the character of these stamps, nor do we set ourselves up as their defenders. We are as desirous as he can be of ascertaining exactly what they are worth; but before relaxing our belief in their authenticity, we must have some stronger evidence than he brings forward. Perhaps the truth is, that prepayment in Morton stamps, of letters sent over the Morton line, is merely optional.

In the June number, Senor M. P. de Figueroa seeks to explain the presence of French stamps and a French postmark on a letter from Cuba. He argues that the French consuls in Cuba probably act as packet agents, and forward letters prepaid with French stamps. The editor, in a footnote, states that he has been informed that letters brought from Cuba by the French packet are *not* prepaid at the consulate, as Senor de Figueroa supposes, but on board the boat itself, to which the public have to carry their letters.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

MEXICO.—It turns out, as we had suspected, that the new series numbers among its values a 6 centavos and a 100 centavos. The 6 c. is distinguished from the other four values by the word of value reading from the top downwards, instead of from the bottom upwards, as on the other stamps. This value is printed a pale yellowish green. The 100 centavos is in lilac; the 12 c. (which has the denomination on the *right* side, instead of on the left, as in the other values) is found in blue and dark blue, and the 25 c. in pale red and vermillion. We felt some doubt last month as to the effigy being that of Juarez; and our scepticism has been shared by our *confrères*, one of whom hints that it may really be that of Hidalgo. On the whole, however, whilst admitting that the portrait has something monk-like about it, we are inclined to believe it to be that of Juarez. It will not do to attach too much importance to a fancied clerical air, and there is no special reason for supposing that the change of emission would lead to a change

in the effigy; moreover, the portrait of Juarez on the preceding series is hardly less ecclesiastical in appearance than that on the new comers.

The editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* has received some unused 50 centavos yellow, of the 1868 type, surcharged with the word *ANOTADO*, in round hand, in black. He suggests that it may be a mark placed by the administration upon the genuine stamps to distinguish them from forgeries concocted in Mexico: this we venture to doubt, bearing in mind that the Colombian stamp, with letter A (signifying *anotado*) in centre, is used, according to some, as an unpaid letter, and, according to others, as a registration stamp.

RUSSIA.—The stamped post cards, of which we announced the emission, made their appearance punctually at the promised date—

the 1st May, and we now present an illustration of the impressed design which they bear on the right upper corner. The cards are of the same size as the unstamped one, but they appear at first sight to be larger. The available space is augmented to the extent of

quite a centimetre each way, by carrying the border nearly to the edge of the card; thus room has been found to increase the number of lines destined to receive the address from five to six. The design is an entirely new one, with the exception only of the imperial arms, in the left upper corner, which appear to be a transfer from the unstamped card. The border is of a much lighter pattern, and a graceful inner frame has been added. The Russian inscription, signifying *CORRESPONDENCE CARD*, is in very bold type, more than double the size of the same inscription on the unstamped emission. On the 3 kop., below this inscription, are the words—*for the town*; and on the 5 kop., in the same place—*for the country*. The former also bears a notice, to the effect that it is intended for the town only, and may be thrown into the letter-boxes for delivery by any of the town offices; whilst the latter has a similarly worded notice, to the effect that the card may be forwarded through any post-office in the empire. The printer's address, in a slightly abbrevi-

ated form, is inserted in the border itself, instead of being below, as in the unstamped cards. The colour of the cards sent us by our St. Petersburg correspondent is a pale grey, though M. Moens quotes the emission as being on white. The 3 kop. is printed of a reddish-brown; the 5 kop., of a deep chrome-green. The inscriptions on the back are precisely the same as on the first-issued card.

The Belgian paper notes the arrival of the 1, 3, 5, 10, and 20 kop. adhesives on vertically and horizontally laid paper, with undulations in watermark. It also states that the 10 kop. envelope now has the stamp struck on the right, instead of the left.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—The June number of *Le Timbre-Poste* contains notices of two entirely new locals, engravings of two older ones described in our list, and a valuable analysis of the Bogorodsk type. We will take the two novelties first, and then proceed with the notice of the others.

Cherson (Cherson).—

This new stamp may be described as the second seen from a distance. It is simply a reduced copy of its predecessor. It is perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and printed red.

Bronnitsi (Moscow).—

This, like the Charkoff, noticed and engraved in our February number, seems to be modelled on the design of the first type of the Bogorodsk, which is not surprising when we consider that it comes from the same government as the latter—that of Moscow. In the size, the corner numerals, the serrated outer border, and the shape of the inscribed oval, there is a great resemblance to the Bogorodsk; but in place of an armorial design we get a plain figure of value in the centre. The inscription signifies *RURAL POST OF THE BRONNITZI DISTRICT*. The impression is in bright vermillion. The *Stamp-Collector's Journal* describes this design as emanating from Borovitchi, which must be a mistake.

Kolomna (Moscow).—This stamp is roughly perforated $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8. The design, a crowned pillar between two stars, deserves the elucidation which it will doubtless receive in the hands of one or other of our obliging correspondents. The colour is vermilion. The fact of its

being perforated is duly noticed in our list, vol. ix., p. 97.

Borovitchi (Novgorod).—Lozenge-shaped stamps seem to be popular with the Russian local authorities. To the Egorieff and the Pskoff must now be added the annexed design, replacing the quaint red-brown type which formed the first emission. The value is 5 kopecs; the impression is in black, with the exception of the frame, which is in vermilion; white paper.

Bogorodsk (Moscow).—The following is M. Moens' analysis of three types issued for this district, of which the third is a new discovery, and probably a new emission.

TYPE 1.

TYPE 2.



TYPE 1.—5 kop. blue; 5 kop. bright vermilion, on slightly yellowish tinted white paper.

This design, in both colours, has been found by M. Moens' correspondent to exist also on newspaper bands, measuring 49 centimetres (20 inches!) of which $6\frac{1}{2}$ cent. in length are gummed. As the stamps are not perforated, and the design impressed on the band falls on that portion which is gummed at the back, there would seem to be no means of distinguishing the label from the

newspaper stamp, when the latter is cut out of the band on which it is printed. A 1 and a 10 kop. were chronicled by our correspondent last year (p. 97), but have not yet found their way across.

TYPE 2.—*Adhesives*—5 kop. blue. 10 kop. yellowish red. On paper slightly blued.

Envelopes (design impressed on the flap)—5 kop. blue on white laid envelope—14 by 11 centimetres.

10 kop. blue and very pale blue, on white wove envelope; 19 by 13½ centimetres.

TYPE 3.—A roughly executed lithograph of the second type; St. George much larger, and looking as if mounted on a wooden horse.

Adhesives—1 kop. violet-red, pale and bright.

5 kop. pale rose and brownish rose.

SIERRA LEONE.—We have now the pleasure to give the engraving of the new shilling stamp, which reached us too late for insertion in our last number.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—The three English philatelic journals are severally rebuked in the June number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, for their sins of omission or commission, in connection with their notice of the stamps for these colonies. Our own transgression consisted in reading M. Moens' statement that the stamps were perforated 16 as being that they were postmarked 16, and we willingly make due acknowledgment of our error, as it told considerably against the stamps, which we should be sorry to condemn without due reason. Their introducer now states that all the specimens he has seen are postmarked No. 1, and that the c in *SERVICO* should be written with a cedilla. Our Birmingham contemporary seems inclined to place faith in these stamps.

CEYLON.—We find, in the current number of *The American Journal of Philately*, a coloured illustration of a Cingalese post card which has just made its appearance, and evidences the intention of the island postal authorities not to do things by halves. The design of the new 2 cents adhesive (a value which, it must be remembered, equals only an English halfpenny) is impressed in the right upper corner. The inscriptions running across the card are disposed in the

same manner as those on the English ones; first POST CARD, then the royal arms, and then—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. A broad marginal frame is nearly filled with inscriptions in Cingalese and Tamil; the spaces on either side of these inscriptions being occupied with graceful foliate ornaments. The directions are repeated in the same languages at the back, and on the reverse left hand side are the words, LETTER TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. The impression is in lilac, on a buff card of about the same shade.

WURTEMBERG.—We have omitted to mention that this country on the 1st January last issued a stamped wrapper for printed matter, bearing an impression from the die of the 1 kr. adhesive, and surrounded by a dotted line, coloured green in places, and formed, apparently, by the perforating "rule," which here and there nearly pierces the paper. A broad band of green runs longitudinally on either side of the wrapper.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The list of values of the new series, which we gave in

April, partly from ocular inspection, and partly relying on the information given by a magazine whose pretensions to accuracy are generally known—*The American Journal of Philately*—requires correction, and some additions have also to be made to it. The corrected list now reads as follows, but it may require further amendment:

One cent	orange-red, yellow-orange.
Two "	blue.
Three "	rose.
Four "	yellowish green.
Six "	black.
Ten "	rosy lilac. (?)
Twelve,,	"

We annex engravings of the 4, 6, and 10

cents. The designs, in our opinion, show some slight improvement on those of the one and three cents; they are not so repulsively coarse. The two cents also, which we have received too late to permit of our engraving it in time for the present number, is more successful. Its design consists of the Queen's head, on a solid elongated upright oval disk, enclosed in a narrow dotted frame, above which, in a well-drawn arch, following the line of the oval, and descending about mid-way down the stamp, is the inscription, in white letters—PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE. The upper angles have good sized square disks, bearing the numeral of value, and the value and numerals occupy the lower margin, as in the other types. The colour is ultramarine blue. The portrait of the Queen is evidently a rough but pretentious copy of one of the De la Rue profiles. The twelve cents, first noticed by *The Philatelic Journal*, has the portrait of the Queen in an ornamental circle, the inscription in an arch above, numerals in upper angles, and the value in lower margin. The colour of the specimen from which our contemporary describes—rosy lilac—is also that quoted for the 10 c. in *Le Timbre-poste*, but as it is hardly likely that the same colour would be given to both stamps, there is some mistake—probably the result of a slip of the pen, on the part of the Belgian magazine.

Mr. S. A. Taylor, of Boston (U.S.), volunteers the information that the designs are not the work of a Prince Edward Islander, but of a Londoner, named Whiting;*

DENMARK.—The postal authorities, says M. Moens, have it in contemplation to print

[*It is well known that all the stamps of Prince Edward Island, including the present as well as past issues, are produced in the ateliers of Mr. Charles Whiting, the well known printer of Beaufort House, London; and bearing in mind the beauty of the numerous essays of Great Britain which emanated from the same establishment years ago, we are induced to conjecture that the limitations of colonial expenditure may have something to do with the undoubted inferiority in design of these stamps. That fine engraving is expensive we know; that it can be produced by Mr. Whiting's house we also know: hence our surmises.—Ed.]

their stamps in aniline colours, like those of Russia, to prevent the erasure of the obliterations, and the employment a second time of stamps which have passed through the post. Stamped wrappers, value 2 sk., bearing the same design as the adhesive 2 sk., but printed entirely of a light blue, have just been issued. They are about 14 in. long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, and have a blue border running lengthwise.

UNITED STATES.—A registration stamp of an entirely novel character has just been issued; in form it is an upright rectangle, measuring about 3 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad; printed on plain unwatermarked paper; of a pale green colour; perforated 12, as the rest of the United States stamps.

The legend is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, REGISTERED, with a circular space, rather larger than a half-crown in the middle, inscribed, STAMP HERE, DATE AND PLACE OF MAILING. The ground-work is formed of plain engine-turning, in lines, producing no particular effect. The value is not stated on its face. *The American Journal of Philately* first noticed this stamp.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—We have official authority for stating, that in consequence of the fraudulent employment of the dies of the present issue by the printer, in conjunction with the person named Enterlein, recently referred to in these pages, a fresh series will probably be prepared after the new president, Mr. T. F. Burgers, is sworn in—a ceremony which takes place this 1st instant. The designs are not definitively decided on, but of the two values which it is proposed to issue first—viz., the penny and sixpence—one will probably bear the likeness of the new president, and the other will show two ostriches—a reference to ostrich feathers, which are largely exported from the republic. It is intended to employ the American Bank Note Company to execute the designs; and the colours and values of the four stamps, which will form the complete series, will be the same as those of the emission now in use.

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE.—The 20 reis comes over of a dark bistre, and the 25 reis is at present issued in vermilion.

SPAIN.—The 2 milesimas is now printed on thick paper of a deep buff colour, and the 1 mil. has likewise changed its paper, and is issued on rose-pink.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. adhesive has now made its appearance printed of a dull yellowish orange.

HOLLAND.—New postage stamps are, it is said, on the point of being issued for this kingdom.

ROUMANIA.—The 5 bani perf. now comes over printed a light red and dull carmine.

THE STAMPS OF ST. DOMINGO.

BY WARDEN.

(Reprinted from *The Philatelist*).

"Jam pudet: et timeo
Offensos videar ne meruisse deos."—*Cydippe Acontio*.

THE island of St. Domingo (or Haiti) is divided into two republics: the eastern two-thirds of the island, St. Domingo; the western one-third, Haiti. The former only has issued stamps,—*pace* S. A. Taylor and his 25 c. Haiti, so deftly set afloat,—and with these, after much hesitation, we propose to deal. At present, we are unable to give the exact dates of the different issues or varieties; but in a mail or two we hope to hear that the search instituted by an energetic correspondent for official decrees has proved successful. In the following list, all that is attempted is to give a description of such stamps as are known to us, and to arrange them, as far as our data allow, in chronological order. If only we can provoke discussion of the subject, something will be gained; and then, perhaps, facts may be brought to light, which will enable some competent writer to construct a cosmos out of the chaos which we are powerless to reduce to order. Much as we should like to be able to adopt the excellent arrangement of types, species, and varieties, applied so successfully to the stamps of Western Australia by Mr. Pemberton, to do so is out of the question in the present case, owing to our ignorance. So long as the normal colours of the upright rectangular series are unknown,—if indeed there is anything *normal* about it,—that is impossible; and much as we regret it, we can do no better than as follows:—

Type I. 1862-4. Shield bearing arms of the republic; CORREOS placed vertically to right, reading downwards; value in *italics*, to left, reading upwards; all within a single-line frame. Black impression on coloured paper; unperforated; square.



On thin hard wove paper :

Medio real	pink.
Un real	green.

On thick soft wove :

Medio real	pink.
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Type II. 1865. Shield as in I., CORREOS to right; value in Roman letters, to left, both reading downwards; all within a wave-line frame. Black impression on coloured paper; un-

perforated; square.

On laid paper :

Medio real	pale green.
Un real	straw.
Un real	pale brown (? discoloration).

Type III. 1866, and still current. Shield charged as in I., but smaller, between branches tied below; ribbon above, inscribed *Dios Patria Libertad*; ribbon below, without motto; CORREOS in straight label at top; value in words in similar label at bottom; all within double-line frame, upright rectangular; unperforated.

(A) Black impression on coloured paper.

$\frac{1}{2}$ REAL.

On laid paper :

1866 Medio real	straw.
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On wove paper :

1866 Medio real	deep pink.
1867 " "	pink.
1869 " "	flesh.

On pelure paper :

1867 Medio real	pale pink.
(?) " "	pale salmon.
(?) " "	pale grey.
1868 " "	lavender.
1869 " "	pale green.
(?) " "	olive.
(?) " "	drab.
(?) " "	yellow.
(?) " "	very bright yellow.

On pelure paper, extra thin :

1866 Medio real	blue-lilac.
1869 " "	greyish drab.

$\frac{1}{2}$ REAL.

On paper watermarked with diaper of fleurs-de-lis :

1866 Un real	green.
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On wove paper :

1866 Un real	blue.
" Un real	blue (<i>Unreal</i> as though one word).
" No inscription or value	blue.
1869 Un real	water-green.

On laid paper :

1866 Un real	green.
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On pelure paper :

(?) 1866 Un real	pale green.
1867 " "	pale lavender.
" " "	light blue.

On wove paper :

(?) 1869 UN real	green.
" " "	deep blue.
" " "	salmon.

On laid paper :

(?) 1869 UN real	pale green.
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On pelure paper :

(?) UN real	pale drab.
1868 " "	pale pink.
" " "	pink.
" " "	salmon.

$\frac{1}{4}$ REAL.

(B) Colour on colour.

On wove paper :

1871 Medio real	blue on pink.
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This last-named stamp is found both light and dark blue, and on both light and deep pink paper, and has CORREOS and value in black letters. M. Moens announces also one on magenta, but from copies received a few days since, we incline to call them deep pink. The contrast between the blue and pink tends to give the latter an apparently magenta hue.

It is highly probable that some of the foregoing shades are the result of exposure; but since such shades undoubtedly exist, it has been thought best, in a tentative paper, to enumerate them. The only stamps issued with gum, we believe to be the Medio real (blue-lilac), the Un real (pale lavender), and the UN real green, on wove. Of the wove paper UN real deep blue and salmon, we, autoptically, know nothing, but include them on the authority of M. Moens. The rarest stamps apparently are the Medio real (*pelure*), very bright yellow, and the Un real

(on watermarked paper) green. This last may, however, prove fairly common, as doubtless, owing to the indistinctness of the watermark, the peculiarity has escaped notice. At present, we only know of two copies,—one in the Ph. collection, and the other in that of the editor of this magazine.

Since the above was in type, we have received from H. B. M., Consul at Santo Domingo a letter, dated March 10, 1872, in which he says:—" * * * Since my establishment in this country, I have never known any other postage stamps in circulation than those which are at present in use. I have inquired of the comptroller, as well as of the postmaster, and neither has been able to afford me information of previous issues. The frequent changes of government, as well as of postmasters, render it well-nigh impossible to get at the facts; but, according to information I have had from old inhabitants, there have never been other stamps than those now in use." The above is only another instance of those on the spot being badly posted up in matters which foreigners have long been acquainted with. As examples of the stamps in use at the date of his letter, he encloses the Medio real blue on pink, and the UN real green; this latter gummed.

We append an illustration of a DOS REALES carmine, introduced by Mr. Chute, of Boston, in 1867. For a time it passed among collectors as a veritable issue, but at length proved worthy of its sponsor. As far as we are aware, that gentleman has not hitherto responded to Mr. Pemberton's challenge in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* of May, 1869, to give an account of his relative's good fortune in meeting with the stamp. The letter of Mr. Charles Drummond, in this journal for June, 1867 (written in support of the then recently-announced novelty), confesses to "a friend in the West-Indian commission business." What splendid fellows these new-world philatelists are! Who on this side of the water would have hit on this delicate euphemism for "a purveyor of Boston bumbags!"

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

THE MONETARY SYSTEM OF THE DECCAN.—"In the Deccan they have a money system, which 'no fellow can understand;' I can't, though I have specimens of the coinage (?),—beginning with a cowrie (a little shell), and a cubic lump of copper, up to some very beautiful gold coins—and a most elaborate table for calculating exchange. However, the rupee in use there is the *sicca* rupee, worth less than our rupee; consequently, the anna and the half anna are worth less than our anna and half anna."—F. H., *Madras*.

We have received a communication from that philatelic Ishmael, Mr. S. A. Taylor, in which he contests our argument that the Hawaiian stamps surcharged SPECIMEN and CANCELLED, respectively, are reprinted. He states that he has made certain inquiries on the subject, and, upon the authority of an old resident in Honolulu, he informs us that there are but three printing-offices in the Hawaiian Islands, none of which possess copper-plate presses; "consequently, the 5 c. or 13 c. have not been reprinted." He adds, "The 2 c. is a lithograph, and there is no lithographic press in Honolulu, or elsewhere in the islands. If reprinted, then these plates must have been conveyed to the United States; and the most probable place in which to have the reprinting done, would be in this city [Boston], where the stamps themselves were originally executed. *The plates have not been here.* Is it impossible that there should be any 'remainders' in Hawaii?" The writer assures us that his statements are positively true and correct in every particular, and we are inclined to accept them as such.

SOMETHING rich in the way of albums is announced by the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*. A Leipsic collector—Mr. R. F. Albrecht—is preparing one, of which only twenty copies will be printed, price £22 10s. each! The German magazine gives a long list of its promised excellencies. Space is to be found in it for everything. It will necessarily be bulky, and two large volumes will not be too many for its intended

contents. The text is to be in three languages—English, French, and German. Paper and all accessories are to be of unexceptional excellence. The list of the subscribers' names is to be inscribed on the fly-leaf. If these advantages are not sufficient to induce moneyed collectors to lay out 150 thalers on a work they will not be able to see until it is finished, then we would recommend them to get an album prepared specially for their collections, which would probably, after all, be the more preferable alternative. Although it is not intended to print more than twenty copies, the projector does not say whether, in the event of getting thirty applications, he would decline the last ten.

WHEN *The Philatelist* informed its readers that the design on the stamps of the Orange Free State was intended to represent the "Tree of Liberty," we felt some doubt as to the correctness of its statement. Our incredulity has, however, vanished before the proofs which have been furnished us of the true signification of the design. On the engravings of the arms of the state, which adorns its *Official Gazette* and *Friend* newspaper, the tree is surcharged with a label bearing the word VRYHEID, or "Liberty." The fruit with which the tree on the stamps is covered, was a very confusing addition made by the engraver of his own accord, and he is therefore responsible for the general supposition that it is an orange-tree. There is no ground for arguing that the fruit is intended to represent cannon-balls. The three pendants are "powder-horns, as made and used by the African boers, and not peaceful post-horns. The country derives its name from the Orange river, and not from the orange-tree (which does not thrive there at all), as the engraver must have supposed." Thus says our obliging informant, the Postmaster-general of the South African Republic.

THE right of printing and forwarding through the post private post cards, is subject to the restrictions enumerated in the following notice.

PRIVATE POST CARDS.—The postmaster-general has issued the following notices:—"That on and after the

17th June, private cards may be taken to the office of Inland Revenue, to be impressed with a halfpenny stamp, under conditions which may be learnt on application at that office; and, when thus impressed, but not otherwise (for adhesive stamps will not be accepted in payment of the postage), they may be transmitted through the post between places in the United Kingdom, under the following regulations:—1. The words "Post Card" and "The address only to be written on this side" must be printed on the front of the cards, as in the case of the official post card—the Royal arms being omitted; but there must be nothing else (the address excepted) printed, written, or otherwise impressed upon the face of the cards. 2. Nothing whatever may be attached to the cards. 3. The cards must not be folded, nor may they be cut, or in any way altered, after they have been impressed with the halfpenny stamp at the Office of Inland Revenue. 4. On the back of the cards any communication, whether of the nature of a letter or otherwise, may be written or printed; but such communication must not extend to the front side. Private cards will not be supplied to postmasters for sale to the public. It must be distinctly understood that no cards, except those which are impressed with a halfpenny stamp at the Office of Inland Revenue, can pass through the post for a postage of a halfpenny, if they have anything of the nature of a letter written upon them. There seems to be much misapprehension upon this point."

Why a plain card of the regulation size, and prepaid with a halfpenny adhesive, is not to be allowed to pass through the post, is more than we can understand.

Two interesting, unofficial gatherings of the members of the philatelic society took place during the past month at Dr. Viner's residence, the object being the comparison of the members' collections of the stamps of certain specified countries. On the 1st of June, Spain was the country selected; several good collections were shown, but the interest centered in two remarkably fine ones—those of Sir Daniel Cooper and another; for interesting varieties and completeness they could hardly be surpassed. On the 13th June, France and Belgium were made the subjects, and again Sir Daniel Cooper's collection took the lead, in company with that of Dr. Viner. At this second meeting, Mr. Ysasi produced a very fine specimen of the 1 real dark violet Luzon of the first 1863 series, *obliterated*, and consequently of great rarity; also the following Luzon stamps, surcharged HABILITADO POR LA NACION, 5 cuartos CORREOS INTERIOR, red; 1 real green; and 25 c. light orange. The first-named is noticed by M. Moens in the current number of his journal, but the specimen to which he refers has been for some time in this country.

Sir Daniel Cooper showed a rare—and, we may say, unique—Spanish official stamp, issued in 1854, of which the design consists of the Queen's head embossed on green, something after the fashion of the 1853 Italian, the inscription, CORREO OFICIAL, 1 LIBRA, 1854, running round the circle. We hope these interesting reunions will be continued.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Amateur Printer's Journal and Foreign Stamp Gazette. Leeds: Wightman.

As an amateur printer's journal this is a creditable performance, though even an amateur need not have allowed "How I climbed a Tree" to go to press. As a foreign stamp gazette it is nowhere. An article on Stamp Collecting, by J. E. Gray, "reprinted from one of his books," and a catalogue of stamps constitute its sole attraction. We are surprised to find such sounding pretensions so poorly supported.

The Odontometer. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE idea of an odontometer is due to Dr. Magnus—the very word, signifying literally a tooth-measurer, was laid down by him; and in *Le Timbre-Poste*, five years ago, the first odontometer was published by him in illustration of an article on perforations. The able writer who signs himself "A Parisian Collector" has copied and improved on this original, and has had his copy lithographed on cardboard for the use of philatelists. It is very neatly got up, and the scale comprises all the principal perforations, from 7 to 16. These are indicated by dots running at proportioned intervals across lines of two centimetres in length, and to measure perforations the stamps have only to be fitted in just below the line, when it will at once be seen whether the dots on the line occupy the spaces between the teeth of the perforations; if not, then another line must be tried, until the right one be found. The engraver's proof of the odontometer was, we are told, returned to him several times, because it was found to be inaccurate, the dots somehow did not fall

exactly in their proper places; at length the cause of the variation was discovered; the proofs were taken on damp card, and when it dried the surface slightly contracted. When this was remedied the printing off was proceeded with. The perforation-gauge is surrounded by a neat border, and inscription indicating the price—one shilling—and the publisher's address. The entire card measures about $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; but the purchaser can, if he like, cut away all the superfluous card, and leave only the gauge itself, which can then be slipped into the smallest card-case, and being thus portable, can be called into service at any moment. We strongly recommend the odontometer to all who study perforations.

The Permanent Postage-Stamp Album. By H. Stafford Smith. Second edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Brighton: Stafford Smith & Co.

THE second edition of this really valuable work has been out for some time, and is no doubt making fair progress towards exhaustion. The prediction of popularity with which we accompanied our review of the first edition has been fully verified, and it appears that our own approval of the plan on which it is arranged has been confirmed by "hosts" of private collectors. Encouraged by its success, the editor and publishers have bestowed increased pains on the compilation, and in the important accessories of printing, paper, and binding, nothing is wanting. The binding is specially noteworthy, as it is the first feature to which the eye is drawn; and the style in which the title is printed across the front cover in black and gold, is really admirable. Having opened the serviceable spring lock, which preserves the contents of the book from the forays of incautious fingers, we get to the interior, and proceed to journey through. The first prominent innovation which strikes us is the allotment of space for post cards. This will be welcomed by every purchaser; for post cards are as much in favour, and as easily collectable, as adhesives. Then we notice that in most cases oblong spaces are provided for oblong stamps—an improvement which we suggested when reviewing the first edition.

All the new issues are duly represented, and blank pages are plentifully scattered throughout the work. Spaces are allotted for most of the Russian locals. No less than three ruled pages follow those which are numbered for the emissions of Spain, and two spare pages accompany those which are given to Germany. The Hungarian stamps and post cards are provided for, and two spare pages follow that which is destined to receive the stamps of this resuscitated kingdom. Under New Granada, the stamps of Antioquia, Bolivia, Cundinamarca, and Tolima find a place, and the emissions of the Fiji Islands, the Deccan, &c., will find comfortable compartments at their disposal. At the end of the volume is a little fly-leaf, containing the following address:—

To the Purchaser of this Album.

STAFFORD SMITH & CO. will feel grateful for your opinion respecting the accompanying Album (whether that opinion be favourable or otherwise); also for suggestions as to any improvements you think desirable to be made in a future edition. S. S. & Co. will also be obliged by your informing them whether you consider a sufficient provision has been made for the stamp issues of future years. Kindly write your remarks on the other side.

In obedience to this request,—which is an exceedingly creditable one to the publishers, as showing their intention to be governed in the compilation of future editions by the experience and the wishes of the purchasers of the present one,—we venture to make some observations, though we cannot write them “on the other side.” We may remark, then, that the only point in which, regard being had to its object, the album is capable of improvement, is in the distribution of the space allotted to some of the European countries. The author does not chronicle perforated and unperforated varieties, but he might, in most instances, so arrange the squares as to leave room for the insertion of both sets. In the pages allotted to France, we also notice that the lithographed and engraved stamps of 1870-71 are chronicled together as only one series; thus but one 20 centimes is given, one 10 c., one 40 c., &c.; whilst all the world knows there are two stamps of all of these values—one lithographed and unperforated, the other engraved and perforated. We must, however, in justice, accompany this

slight correction with the acknowledgment that no substantial harm is done by the imperfection of the list, as two spare pages, following immediately after those numbered for France, form a corrective, containing, as they do, sixty-four blank squares. Indeed, the elasticity and comprehensiveness of this album are its most prominent characteristics; within its covers there is room enough for the largest collection which could be mounted in a ready-prepared book, and no other album can boast of such neatness and elegance in its typographical arrangements.

It is bound in all styles to suit all purses, and well bound in every style. We heartily commend it to our readers' attention, and feel certain that it will meet with a ready sale.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURCHARGED MEXICAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of “THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.”

SIR,—In the very able paper on “Surcharged Mexican Stamps,” in the May number of *The Philatelic Journal*, the author says that the number and date is invariably on the *right* side in every copy he has seen, of the issue which he *then* called rightly “the present set.”

On turning over my stamps, to see how far they agreed with the above remarks, I found a copy of the 25 c. blue on rose-coloured paper, surcharged MONTERREY on the *right* side of the stamp, as it lies on the page before one, and 7—70 on the *left* side; the lettering is in Roman type.

Probably some of your readers may assist in completing the list, by giving the names surcharged on the stamps numbered 15, 27, 29, 32, 34, which are returned as not known, or illegible to the author. It will be seen that Chalco, Guaymas, I del Carmen, Pubanco, and Tepic, are found among the eagles, but not in this series.

Yours obediently,

London.

A. J. H.

NEW GRANADA 1859, 1860, & 1861 STAMPS.

To the Editor of “THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.”

DEAR SIR,—I am investigating the order of issue of the so-called 1859, 1860, and 1861 sets of the above republic. Will you kindly allow me the use of your columns, to ask collectors to send me, to the address below, particulars of the postmarks which their copies bear? I shall esteem it a great favour if you and they will thus oblige me. For the sake of clearness it may be well briefly to describe the stamps, about which information is desired

- (a.) “Confed. Granadina,” value, above and below circle, in large figures.
- (b.) “Confed. Granadina,” value, above and below circle, in small figures.
- (c.) “Est. Unidos de Nueva Granada” (large rectangular.)

As the stamps are somewhat rare, I hope those who

have but few specimens will not therefore think their copies incapable of contributing valuable data.

One point especially I should be glad to hear about, viz., the existence, or non-existence, of a postmarked copy of the 5 c. lilac (*large figure*) on *laid* paper.

Yours truly,
Valley End, Bagshot. C. S. WARD.

THE POST CARDS OF THE ROTTERDAM GENERAL SERVICE COMPANY.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the June number of your magazine I perceive that you have some doubts regarding the authenticity of the cards issued by the Rotterdam General Service Company, and first mentioned by M. Moens, in his *Timbre Poste* of last month. As an inhabitant of Rotterdam, I beg to rectify your error, and to assure you that these cards are as genuine as possible, and very generally used. I myself generally keep a few in my pocket, and when I have to send a message, into any part of the town, I write the address on the front, and the message on the back, and then I hail the first messenger of the company I meet, who is then bound to deliver my message free to the address, the fare being already paid by the cost of the card.

The price of each card is 10 cents, not 10 centimes, as you state.

As these cards do not pass the post, I do not attach any philatelic value to them; but I trust I have proved to you that they are not to be ranked amongst "bogus" novelties, but are a real and genuine article.

I may add that M. Moens got the information he published from me.

Enclosing you one of these cards for inspection, and requesting you to insert this letter in your next number,

I remain, dear sir,
Yours respectfully,
Rotterdam. W. MAINGAY.

THE PETERSBURG STAMP.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—On carefully perusing the article on the above stamp in the April number of *The Philatelic Journal*, I have discovered that the arguments therein set forth are almost entirely erroneous; and, thinking that the subject is one of interest to stamp-collectors, I take pleasure in giving such facts as I have ascertained.

Passing over the description of the various types, we find that the writer of the article in question acknowledges the genuine character of what he designates as type I., but doubts—in fact, almost positively denies—the genuineness of most known specimens of type II., which he says "differs in everything from type I., and is postmarked with a blue circle, and dated variously *February* to *December*; i. e., before and after the black obliteration used in March on the known genuine type."

In regard to the order of the types, I have ascertained that the Petersburg stamp was not issued until sometime in the *latter half* of the year 1861; and one of the clerks then employed in the post-office of that city says that it was used until the Confederate 5 c. stamp of De la Rue & Co. arrived, say, about May, 1862, the first issue of the Confederacy apparently never having been supplied to the Petersburg post-office. The blue handstamp must, therefore, have been used from September, 1861, to February, 1862, and the black one during March and April, 1862. This also shows that "type I." was in reality used *after* "type II."

But now comes the most important point. Speaking of type II., *The Philatelic Journal* says, "The five addressed envelopes are all to a certain W. C. Upchurch, of Raleigh, North Carolina; those postmarked Feb. 7 and Oct. 20 are similar in writing and envelope; the next, dated Dec. 26, is directed in a bold hand, and the face of the envelope bears a lithographic grey design 'Smyth, Stone, & Banks, Grocers and Commission Merchants, Petersburg, Va.' The other two are dated Oct. 22 and Nov. 23, respectively, and the addresses are a scrawl. Each of the envelopes bears on the face an imprint of 'R. A. Young & Bro., Grocers and General Commission Merchants, 93, Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va.' So long as we fancied these letters were from three separate persons, or firms, we were disposed to believe in the genuineness of every one of the stamps; but, on a very careful examination (not alone and unaided either), we unhesitatingly pronounce the directions to have been all written by *one* man; and thus we are enabled to expose one of the cleverest, but most abominable, swindles of recent days."

So much for *The Philatelic Journal*. I also happened to come across one of the envelopes dated Oct. 20, bearing Messrs. R. A. Young & Bros.' imprint (and addressed to W. C. Upchurch), and entered into correspondence with them on the subject; and through the great kindness of Mr. John D. Young, who has gone to a great deal of trouble in the matter, I have ascertained that the stamp was printed by a Mr. Campbell; but, owing to his books having been burnt during the war, he was unable to give the full particulars of the issue. I then sent the envelope in question to Mr. Young, and he recognized it as the handwriting of the now senior partner of Messrs. Ralf Bros. Mr. Ralf also identified it as his own handwriting. I then sent him another specimen, of variety 4 of type II., dated Oct. 22, on an ordinary envelope, and a bank official in Petersburg recognized the superscription as that of Mr. J. M. Patterson, formerly a commission merchant of that city. Mr. Young informs me that before and during the entire war, his firm had *frequent* correspondence with Mr. W. C. Upchurch, of Raleigh, N. C. I may also add that both the stamps on the above envelopes were submitted to Mr. Campbell, and he is quite positive that they are of his workmanship. They were both cancelled with the *blue* handstamp.

It seems to me that the above, establishing, as it does, the existence of Mr. Upchurch, and the genuine character of the superscriptions, knocks away the only foundations on which the article in question bases its arguments, especially as *The Philatelic Journal* acknowledges that a *genuine* specimen of type II. *does* exist in Mr. Philbrick's collection, but supposes that all the other specimens of the same type are either *reprints* or *forgeries*.

I therefore think that I can safely assure collectors that they need be under no hesitation in admitting types I. and II. (including their minor varieties) into their albums. I know nothing about type III., not having even *seen* it.

The only point in the above article that can be open to any doubt is the exact date of issue. Although I have every reason for believing that the dates given by me are correct, I shall still continue to investigate this point, and should anything further of interest come to light, it shall be duly communicated through the columns of this magazine.

I notice that the "Pleasant Shade" stamp is also condemned. There can be no possible doubt as to its genuine character. But of this more anon.

Yours truly,
New York. CHARLES H. COSTER.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.
EUROPE.

Denmark.

THE history of the Danish stamps offers an agreeable contrast on the score of clearness to that of the Moldo-Wallachian issues. Here all is comparatively plain sailing; and there will not exist the necessity for clearing up obscure points to tempt me to that forgetfulness of the title of these papers, for which I have been not unkindly reproved.

The only difficulty I find is a chronological one, and it is not of great importance. The year 1851 is everywhere quoted as that of the issue of the 2 rigsbank skg. blue, and the 4 "R.B.S." brown; and Levrault assigns the 1st of April as the exact date of issue of the former; but were they not both issued on the same day? The general notion is that the 2 sk. was issued alone, and was therefore the first Danish stamp; but upon what foundation this belief rests, I know not. The 2 skilling, it should be borne in mind, was in all probability intended for use within the capital only; and though it has been suggested by a philatelist, whose opinions are entitled to the greatest weight, that a local stamp might be issued for experimental purposes before the emission of a series for the entire country, I cannot see how the result of such an experiment could serve as a guide in preparing an issue for general purposes, since the circulation in the capital could form no index to the requirements of the provinces. Moreover, if the 2 sk. had been launched into circulation as a trial, it would, we might suppose, have been followed, immediately on its success being demonstrated, by a full series; yet, in fact, its only companion during its two years' circulation was the 4 "R.B.S.," issued, as I think, simultaneously with it; and when the 2 sk. was suppressed, the 4 "R.B.S." went with it.

However, be this as it may, the 2 sk. is necessarily classed apart, because it has a type to itself. The type, like that of most first issues, is not a very brilliant one, but it is fairly engraved, and like the imperfect organizations of primeval animals (if such a

simile may be allowed), it contains the rudimentary parts of subsequent species. Thus the crown which appears on this stamp is repeated in every successive series, and the post-horn finds a place in all but one. It is further distinguished by the crown watermark, which runs through all the issues. "Once upon a time" this stamp was tolerably rare; but now a used copy can be procured for a shilling, and an unused one at double that price. It has been forged, like almost every other rarity, but has not been reprinted, and it has no varieties or sub-types.

The 4 rigsbank skg.—or "R.B.S.," as it is generally called, from the abbreviation of the value which figures on the stamp itself—is exceedingly common; and, to judge from the fact that it is found in at least three distinct shades of brown, it must have been extensively used. The attention of beginners may be drawn to the fine undulating diagonal buff lines which cross the paper.

The "rigsbank skilling," which formed the denomination of value of the first Danish stamps, was part of an old-fashioned currency, of which the "marc banco" was the unit. The marc contained $48\frac{1}{2}$ rigsbank skilling, and was worth $1/5\frac{1}{2}$ of our money; hence, the first 2 sk. was worth three farthings, and the 4 sk. three halfpence. The modified adoption of the decimal system led to the suppression of these stamps, and the issue of others whose value was indicated in "skilling," of which a hundred went to form the rixdaler, a coin equalling $2/3$ English.

The second series is composed of four stamps, viz., the 2, 4, 8, and 16 sk.; but of these, if we adhere to Levrault's version, only the first two were issued in 1853, the others not appearing until 1857. This is a statement I have no means of verifying, and which I should accept only under reserve.



The design is a faithful copy of that of the 4 "R.B.S."; indeed, it requires careful comparison to demonstrate that the centre is not formed from the old die. The inscriptions alone are changed, or rather abbreviated, and the colours of the first two and four skilling are roughly reproduced on their successors. The crown watermark is

also repeated. The type is divisible into two sub-types: No. 1 with granulated spandrels, No. 2 with undulating horizontal lines in spandrels. The No. 1 type was certainly the first to appear, and it has its representatives in all four values, whilst No. 2 is represented only by the 4 and 8 sk. For the production of sub-type No. 2, the whole design was either re-engraved or touched up. The date of issue of the "undulated ground" stamps is unknown. Probably it took place at a comparatively late period, if we may judge from the fact that the 8 sk. remained in circulation for a considerable time after the other values were superseded. The 16 sk. of the first sub-type, and the 4 and 8 sk. of the second, exist *pierced*, and Levrault catalogues a 2 sk. *piqué* by a private company. This series enjoys the exceptional honour of having been neither reprinted nor forged, though in 1856 a Copenhagen printer, named Thiele, inserted an advertisement in a local directory, consisting of a lithographed representation of an envelope bearing his address, and an imitation of the Danish 2 sk. stamp in the corner, the postmarks and cancellations being also copied; and the conceit is said to have answered.

The next series—that of 1864-5—has but recently passed out of circulation. Its

design—exceedingly plain and unpretending—is well engraved, and is relieved, to some extent, by the delicacy of the colours in which it is printed. The increase in size, as compared with that of its predecessors,

and the introduction of accurate and complete perforation, distinguish the issue, as also the addition of a new value—the 3 sk. mauve. Each value, except the 8 sk., possesses at least two colour-varieties, and all the values have the crown watermark.



The description of the present series is almost supererogatory. That it is a handsome series is allowed on all hands, and with reason. Its present members are the following:—

2 sk.	blue centre	} greenish grey frame.
3 "	violet "	
4 "	carmine "	
8 "	brown "	
16 "	green "	} bistre frame.
48 "	mauve "	

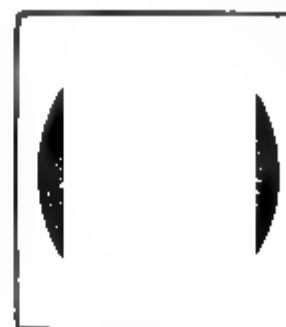
OFFICIAL STAMPS.

The "service" stamps, like their companion cards, are of too recent origin to require lengthened notice.

The design which adorns them is of a somewhat more complex character than that of the adhesives for public use, but the conception is certainly a successful one, and the trio of stamps—the 2, 4, and 16 sk.—forms an enlivening addition to the Danish page, which, commencing with a few commonplace labels, bids fair to become one of the brightest in our albums. I presume these stamps are really employed for statistical purposes, as the readiest means of checking the weight and extent of official correspondence. That they are really *postage* stamps I am not prepared to say, but I hope to discuss this question under a separate heading.

ENVELOPES.

The two envelopes issued in 1865—the 2 sk. blue, and 4 sk. bright red—continue to do duty. Two varieties of each value exist,



those with and those without an s after the figure of value. The envelopes were first issued with the s, then without; and since then have again appeared with the s. Of the 4 skg. without s, three trifling varieties, distinguished by

the shape of the numeral, have been discovered, and thus we have broad figure, thick figure, and thin figure; but the utility of collecting all three is questionable.

POST CARDS.

These are of two classes. There are the post cards for general use, and the official

post cards. The values are the same for each—viz., 2 and 4 sk.—and are indicated by means of impressions in one colour, from the dies of the adhesives. The cards for the public are inscribed BREV-KORT, and those for official use TJENESTE-BREVKORT. The unofficial cards show the Danish arms in the left upper corner, encircled with the badge of the order of the elephant.

LOCAL STAMP.

The only known local stamp is that of Holte, a town about six miles from Copenhagen, of which the engraving is here reproduced. It is said to have been issued about the year 1868, by the local authorities of the town of Holte, in order to cover the cost of collection or delivery by the rural letter-carriers of the district. Why Holte, above all other towns, should possess a stamp, is a question which remains to be answered. If "Landpost" stamps are required at all, why does not the government issue a series for the entire country? Or is the Holte label an authorised experiment? If so, it has lasted a long while. It was not known to collectors until the end of 1870, when M. Moens unearthed it, and obtained information direct from Holte as to its employment. It appears it is put on the letters for the district by the rural carriers, who first punch a hole through the stamp, in order to obliterate it; they also put it on the letters which they collect in the district for the town, and then the town officials obliterate it with the ordinary handstamp. The value of the stamp is 2 sk., and the impression is in red-brown on white. Besides the Holte stamp, there are two series of railway stamps, not certainly of more interest than those of our own country, and quite out of place in a postage stamp album.

ESSAYS.

The most noted essays are two very old ones, of which acknowledged counterfeits were on sale ten years ago, and made high prices. Engravings of the forgeries are

annexed. The genuine essays are of great rarity, and it is generally admitted that they were really submitted to the government

during the currency of the "R.B.S." stamps. In any case, but very few copies were printed; I have seen it stated, not more than half-a-dozen. The portrait is that of the king, who died in 1864. The genuine copies of the Mercury essay are distinguished by the projection of the top of the hinder wing above the nearer one, along the whole length, whilst the genuine specimens of the king's-head essay have the beard differently shaped. The counterfeits, which were very finely printed, and came, if I mistake not, from the engravers of the originals, had a long run, and may still be met with; and a second edition was published a few years back, with the value omitted. Copies of this latter are priced at 2½d. in a catalogue I have before me.

Prior to the adoption of the current type, no less than seven other designs of the same class were submitted to the administration. They were duly noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870 (p. 138), to which I beg to refer my readers.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES:

The American Journal of Philately is announced as being under the editorship of Mr. Alfred Turner;—a gentleman whose name is totally unknown to us, and whom we are tempted to believe is as intangible a creation as Sairey Gamp's friend, "which her name was Harris," or the founders of the mythical New York philatelic society,—Dr. Morley, Professor Bungler, Baron Munchausen, &c. Be this as it may, no change in the style of our American contemporary evidences the presence of Mr. Alfred Turner in the editorial chair, and we are inclined to award to Mr. J. W. Scott all the credit due for the readable matter in the May number.

The "History of the Confederate States Post-Office" touches, in this number, on the *Bâton Rouge* and *New Orleans*. With regard to the former, it appears that its issuer—Mr. McCormick—has himself been duped by the counterfeits, as he sent two to Mr. Scott, in reply to the latter's inquiry for information. Respecting the *New Orleans* stamps, the following item of intelligence may possess some interest, as a specimen of Yankee "smartness."

The stamps issued by Mr. Riddell were amongst the earliest of the provisionals known to philatelists, and were reprinted for collectors soon after the city was occupied by the federal forces. Soon after the surrender, a New York dealer applied to Mr. Riddell for a quantity of his stamps, but he refused to sell them under their face value, which the party did not feel inclined to give, as he wanted a large quantity. Finding he could not obtain the desired stamps at his own price of Mr. Riddell, he resorted to other means to obtain his object; and it is but doing him justice to say that, being a strong Union man, he did not believe that the stamps really belonged to Mr. Riddell, as it was in his opinion an act of treason to issue them. He dispatched an agent to New Orleans, who found out the printer, and learnt that he had the plates in his possession, and induced him to reprint a supply of the red and blue 2 cents, and brown 5 cents; but by some oversight he neglected to reprint the 5 cents on blue paper. The stock of the 2 cents stamps has been exhausted for some time, and but few of the 5 are left. I have every reason to believe that the plates were afterwards destroyed.

The number closes with the transcript of the prospectus of the *New York City Dispatch Post*, which was the successor of the *United States City Dispatch Post*. We leave our esteemed contributor, Mr. W. D. Atleo, to give it such attention as he may deem it worthy of receiving.

The June number is about up to the usual standard of the *A. J. P.* It contains another instalment of Mr. Scott's papers on "United States Local Stamps," descriptions of another brace of recently-discovered Confederates, a short paragraph on "Shanghai," "Newly-issued Stamps," a reprint from the *Post-office Gazette*, and a list of "California Revenue Stamps." The Confederate labels hail from North Carolina, and are both exceedingly plain. The Salem stamp, impressed in black, on the right upper corner of a buff envelope, consists of a circle, with the words *POST OFFICE, SALEM, N.C.*, running round, and *O. A. KEEHLN, P.M.*, crossing it; above the postmaster's name are written "Paid 5." The Statesville is a simple transverse oblong, with *PAID* in one line, and "5"

below; the A in *PAID* being represented by an inverted v. This valuable design was struck in blue or black on envelopes brought to the post-offices by persons who required them to be franked.

In the short reference to the Shanghai stamps, Mr. Scott does good service in noticing the fact, that to meet the demand for specimens of the first issue, new dies have been made at Shanghai, from which worthless impressions by the thousand are being printed off, and probably not a few of the errors recently noticed occur in these spurious copies. After these observations it is only a matter of common justice to Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. to say that the Shanghai stamps now offered by them are really what they are advertised to be, namely, "rare old originals, which formed part of the stock on sale at the Shanghai post-office, during the year 1865." The "remainder" of that stock was sent over by the Municipal Council of Shanghai to Messrs. Nissen and Parker, the engravers of the succeeding issues, with instructions to offer them to dealers at face value, and after lying in their office for several years, they have at length been acquired by the well-known Brighton firm. We are averse to anything approaching an advertisement of any dealer's wares; but the announcement of the fabrication of new dies at Shanghai, if allowed to go forth without the above explanation, would be calculated to do Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. most serious and unjustifiable injury; and we have no doubt Mr. Scott will himself see the propriety of doing justice to a firm of unblemished integrity.

In the review of a forthcoming work, bearing the strange title of the "Common Sense Postage Stamp Album," and forming a new edition of Messrs. Scott's American album—of which, notwithstanding its alleged "cosmopolitan circulation," we have never yet had the good fortune to meet with a copy,—we find some rather strange observations. The album itself is said to be compiled on the plan of "totally ignoring pretended distinctions between different printings of the same stamp," whatever that may mean. Perhaps the Birmingham publishers can explain, and stamp with their approval, this curious expression. Further on we find it

stated that for "the local stamps of Hamburg, Russia, and the United States, pages have been left, with simply a heading, as *but few amateurs collect locals*." This comes in strange contradiction of a statement made in another part of this same number, where, in reply to a correspondent, the editor says—"Locals are collected by most amateurs; in our opinion they are more interesting than government issues." No places are left for post cards, we are told in one line, because they would "occupy more space than the interest taken in them by most collectors would warrant;" and yet, in the next line, it is stated that "many post cards have *interesting* inscriptions;" and, further down, that "collectors will find post cards more *interesting* if kept so that both sides may be examined." It is new to us that interest is not generally felt in post cards, and the contrary would seem to be the opinion of the editor of the *American Journal of Philately*, for, in his article on "New Issues" he finds space for a really admirable coloured illustration of the new Cingalese card. The album, we are informed, is not published to "carry out any of the author's whims;" but the whims to which the author thus impliedly confesses seem to have been amply indulged in in the exclusion of "differences in printing" and post cards. Perhaps the work will prove more worthy of praise than are its author's explanations of its purport, and, if so, we shall be happy to recommend it.

The July number possesses very little matter of general interest. The first five pages are occupied with reduced fac-similes of pages of the most popular ruled albums, intended to serve as a guide to intending purchasers. These five pages should have been issued in the form of an advertising supplement. Following the diagrams comes an introductory article on "United States Newspaper Stamps," which it appears have hitherto been neglected. A description of the government emission, consisting of the three very large stamps—5 c. head of Washington, 10 c. head of Franklin, and 25 c. red—is given, accompanied with a well-executed engraving of the five cents; and here we think the reference to newspaper stamps

should stop. We have had enough of them in this country. The conveyance of a parcel of newspapers by rail is only a postal operation when it is performed by a post-office, and hardly so then; but when it is undertaken by a private railway or express company it becomes a simple transport transaction, of the same character as the conveyance of a box of books. Perhaps the best proof that the carriage of packages of newspapers is not fairly within the scope of post-office business, is the fact related by our contemporary, that the American post-office department could not compete for the traffic with the private companies previously in existence. "The cause of the government's failure to obtain the carriage of newspapers in large quantities was, that all papers carried by the department had to be delivered from the post-office, whereas the express companies delivered the papers they carried direct from the train immediately on its arrival, so news-dealers were served by them at least half-an-hour earlier than they could obtain them from the post-office."

A feeling of modesty prevents our reviewing the "Clippings" with which the *American Journal of Philately* concludes its July number, for they are exclusively composed of our own "Occasional Notes" bodily extracted. Our name is appended to the *last* paragraph of the reprint in such a manner as to make it appear that *only* the last paragraph is borrowed from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*; and this our contemporary must allow us to say, once for all, we do not consider to be a really straightforward mode of acknowledgment. We do not expect *The American Journal of Philately* to be composed solely of original matter, nor do we object to our columns furnishing employment for our contemporary's editorial scissors; but its world-wide reputation would not suffer by the frank admission of its occasional indebtedness to a *confrère*.

The Philatelic Journal.—The June number of this magazine opens with an instructive article on the editor's projected catalogue, which promises to be of a very valuable character. It will contain both milk for the philatelic babe, and meat for the mature collector. The arrangement is about the

best which could have been hit on for the successive development of types, species, and varieties. The catalogue will be of immediate use, both to disciples of the advanced and intermediate schools, but we doubt whether, *malgré* the excellence of its plan, it will be at once accepted by the advocates of the pure and simple style of collecting. Its learned appearance will frighten them; but the editor of a work like this proposed catalogue—which will form a very encyclopædia of philatelic information—can well be content to wait for general popularity, until the value of accuracy in observation and collection becomes more widely appreciated. Such a work will probably make its way comparatively slowly at first, but will gradually come to be regarded as an indispensable portion of every philatelist's library. That its compilation has been, and is, a work demanding much time and patience, no one, after examining the specimen-countries quoted, can doubt; but it has also been a labour of love to its author, to whose name it will give an enduring and honourable notoriety.

"Bogus Novelties" contains a notice of the recently-floated forgeries of the Brazilian envelopes, which are most easily distinguishable from the fact that they are on *horizontally* laid paper, whilst the lines of the *vergeure* of the genuine run obliquely. The illustrations to the article on newly-issued stamps are numerous and well-executed, but why engravings of all four values of the new Sierra Leone should be given we cannot understand, seeing that the design is precisely the same for all. "The California Penny Post Company" is an analytical article of the authenticated and unauthenticated issues of the company in question, of which we refrain from giving any account at present, as the writer will, we presume, treat the subject fully in one of the forthcoming instalments of the monograph he is writing for these pages, under the title of "Notes on Californian Locals." "A Parisian Collector" continues his very interesting paper on "The Turkish Stamps," which is full of pleasantly rendered facts. "Surcharged Mexican Stamps" is the second portion of an article already commented on. This is

followed by an obituary notice of an old and energetic amateur, and member of the Philatelic Society,—the late J. WILKINSON CHAPMAN, Esq., of The Green, Stratford, Essex,—and the number closes with the usual "Correspondence" and "Answers to Correspondents."

The July number has reached us too late to permit of our giving a detailed notice of its contents, and we beg to remind our *confrère* that if he thus delays publication, he will lose the advantage of precedence in the announcement of current novelties.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The *Chronique* occupies six-and-a-half pages out of the eight of which the number is composed. It contains much interesting matter, on which we have largely drawn in our own article on novelties, and we reprint M. Moens' list of the Goa stamps for reference. Our contemporary announces a fresh reprint of the old Finnish stamps, from the dies which served for the 1862 reprints, and he distinguishes the following differences between the two impressions:—

Reprints of	1862.	1872.
1845, 10 kop.	pale rose	bright carmine.
20 "	greenish grey-black	intense black.
1850, 5 "	pale blue	ultramarine.
10 "	pale rose	bright carmine.
20 "	grey-black	intense black.

A correspondent, writing on the envelopes of the Emperor William's Association for invalid Germans, says they are of two kinds; one issued by the Central Committee, inscribed, ANGELEGENHEIT DER KAISER WILHELMS-STIFTUNG FÜR DEUTSCHEN INVALIDEN; the other, issued by the Berlin Committee, bearing the legend, ANGELEGENHEIT DES BERLINER VEREINS DER KAISER-WILHELMS-STIFTUNG FÜR DEUTSCHES INVALIDEN. The official correspondence of both committees *within the capital* is carried at the reduced rate of $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., consequently each of the above envelopes bears on its right upper corner an impressed $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. stamp, similar in design to the imperial adhesive of the same value.

The number concludes with the disclosure of a remarkable discovery—to which allusion will be made in our next number—and an article on the $1\frac{1}{4}$ schg. envelope of Hamburg, which, issued in 1867, and suppressed in 1868, is now by no means common. It has been reprinted at Hamburg, and the reprint

is distinguishable by the comparative coarseness of the impression, by the shape of the envelope, of which the side flaps are curved round from the top, and by certain differences in the small inscriptions; thus, the words *post couvert* are united in the reprint by a dot, instead of by a line; furthermore, the paper is of a bluish tint, whilst the official envelope is of a yellowish paper.

The Stamp-Collector's Journal appears to be making fair progress. The April and May numbers contain a fair share of readable matter. In the April number occurs the sensible suggestion that the 5 c. Tolima, lately described, may be the initial stamp of a third series for that state, whilst the 10 c. and 50 c. and 1 peso belong to a second series, of which the 5 c. has yet to be discovered. "The Stamps of the South African Republic" is the title of a careful analysis of the Transvaal issues. The adhesives are divided into two types: I. The scarecrow eagle (answering to the owl-eagle of *The Philatelist*); ribbon narrow. II. Eagle well drawn; ribbon wide. All the values are found in the former type, whilst the latter is represented only by the threepence. The first type is subdivided into German printed and native printed; the second is composed of German printed only. Imperforate and rouletted editions of both types have appeared. The test of German origin, according to this writer, is the paper, which should be *thin* wove, and slightly surfaced; whilst the native impressions are on *thick*, coarse, unsurfaced wove. On this question, however, he is at issue with the editor of *The Philatelist*, who says he has received many sheets of native-printed red stamps, on thin paper. But that he should have received them from the republic is not in itself an answer; we must carry our examination as far as the gum. "It would be strange," says the paper under notice, "if the natives could make and perfectly apply white gum, so long as the thin paper lasted, and at same time *print well* from the wood-blocks; whereas, on the necessity for falling back on native paper occurring, the gum at once became brown and coarsely applied, and the impressions of every conceivable variety of blur. As far as we are aware no copy exists

on the *thin* paper badly printed and coarsely gummed." The editor of *The Philatelist* partially traverses this statement by asserting that he has received native-printed specimens—or, in other words, specimens so badly executed as to leave no doubt of their origin—on thin paper well gummed. The argument of *The Stamp-Collector's Journal* falls through. It is evident that the unofficial rumour of the exportation of thin paper to the republic, to which it elsewhere alludes, is well founded, and that the thickness of the paper is not an all-sufficing test. The comparative excellence of the impression is the only sure test, and the texture of paper and quality of gum become mere subordinate characteristics.

With regard to the envelopes, our own belief for a considerable time was that they should be regarded rather as a fanciful exercise of the directorial function of issuing stamps, than as an emission seriously intended for the use, and placed at the service of the Transvaalites. We have, however, received assurances from the most trustworthy quarter, that so far from their having been prepared for collectors, they were got up solely to meet local wants, and that the differences in the shape and colour arise from the simple fact that no envelopes of uniform size and colour could be obtained at the time when they were issued. This sets our doubts at rest as to the nature of the issue; but then it is worth while considering whether all the different varieties are, under the circumstances, worth collecting. The series is issued—or, to use the French word, created—from the office hand-stamp, and an odd lot of envelopes; such being the case, varieties become the rule, exactly as they do on a sheet of stamps, every one of which is from a separately engraved die. A single envelope may be considered to exemplify the whole emission, and no serious purpose can be served by noticing all the trifling variations, which necessarily occur in such an irregularly constituted series. It is now superseded by a uniform impression from the die of the sixpence adhesive, and at some future date, if the republic escapes annexation, it will not improbably possess a set of envelopes rivalling in fineness those of more highly civilised states.

In the May number of *The Stamp-Collector's Journal* some pretty good Oldenburg forgeries are carefully described, and we may as well repeat their most prominent characteristics.

First issue. The ribbon beyond the full stop, in the right hand corner, is shaded.

Second issue. (Black imp). All the forgeries are from one matrix, and OLDENBURG is much nearer the lower than the upper edge of the ribbon, instead of being equidistant, as in the original.

Third issue. Col. imp.

(a). Ground of oval, *white*. These are from the same matrix as the forgeries of the second issue, and the genuine are from the same matrices as the genuine of the second issue; therefore, the same differences exist as are noted above. The forged $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. is at once detected by its having the ground of the oval coloured, in all the genuine ones the ground is white.

(b). Ground of oval coloured. The forged $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. has the right hand end of lower ribbon distinctly indented, whilst in the original it is but very slightly so, and the right hand circle, containing numeral of value, is separated alike from oval and from inner line of frame by a thick line of colour. In the original this circle is separated from the oval only, and that by a very fine line. In the forged $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. the *inside* of crown is not shown, whilst in the genuine it is seen resting on top of shield, and shaded by fine vertical lines.

The contents of the June number are far from being of equal interest with those of May, and, in fact, do not call for any detailed criticism. The paper on "The Stamps of Greece" is very incomplete. The article on "Forgeries" contains descriptions of some very good counterfeits of the Brazilian envelopes, which we notice elsewhere.

The July number is not to hand. We should regret to find the appearance of progress noticed in reference to the May and June numbers (which part of our review has been in type more than a month) falsified by the premature decease of the paper.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Elizavetgrad* (Cherson).—The design here represented, and described in July of last year, was first issued printed in mauve; it now comes over green. It shows a quaint mixture of symbols and ornaments, and a key to the meaning of the former is much to be desired. In the middle of the ring, which occupies the centre of the

stamp, we find a shield bearing an eagle in its upper, and a star in its lower half; below the ring is a book, and on either side of the archway are a scythe, blade of wheat, and quill pen. Our Belgian contemporary begs its readers not to confound this stamp with a design for a clock-face.

Rjoff (Tver).—The changes which are constantly taking place in the designs and values



of the locals contrasts strangely with the apparently unalterable type of the imperial office. Thus the Tver stamp, described at the beginning of the year, is already withdrawn in favour of the above design, which differs from its predecessor principally from the fact that the inscriptions are white on black, instead of being black on white, and the rampant poodle of the Tver district is better drawn. The impression is on white paper; the frame and device are in black, and the ground of the rectangular disc is red.

Tschongonief (Charkoff).—M. Moens announces that stamps exist for this district, of which his correspondent promises to send specimens shortly.

Bogorodsk.—In a recent number *Le Timbre-Poste* queried the existence of the 10 kop. adhesive red, announced in our now well-known list. We are glad to be able to inform our contemporary we have just received a specimen from Russia. The design is of the first type, the colour scarlet.

The 1 kop. of the first type will, no doubt, also turn up shortly. The 10 kop. envelope, blue, of which we have a copy, measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 in. (19 by 13 centimetres.)

Kolomna.—We possess a blue 5 kop. perforated, and identical in design with the 5 kop red.

Bronnitsi.—We have just received an envelope bearing an impression from the die of the 5 kop. adhesive on the flap, printed a dull deep blue.

FRANCE.—The engraved two centimes stamp, lately announced, has been followed by two more values of the same type, the 4 centimes lavender and 5 centimes bright

green. This latter value has hitherto borne the same device as its higher priced *confrères*; it is now relegated to the ranks of the newspaper stamps, unless, indeed, there should turn out to be but one device for high and low values alike. The introduction of these new comers is effected very gradually, the two-centime is now in pretty general use, but the 4 c., though badly wanted, is as yet but rarely seen.

HOLLAND.—The philatelic event of the past month has been the issue of a high-value stamp for the Netherlands, and the

publication of the type of the forthcoming series.

We annex engravings of both. The execution we are able to state, on the authority of a practised writer, who never errs on the side of overpraise, is perfect, and our illustration will convince our

readers that the laudation is not unmerited. The profile of the king is engraved from the portrait painted by H. F. Okentate, to whom his majesty sat, and it is said to be very like him. The new value is 2 gulden 50 centimes (equal to about four shillings), and it will be noticed that it bears the denomination in the label, above the portrait, whilst all the other new stamps have it on the scroll below. There

is also a difference in the foliage: the expensive label is decorated with oak, and the cheaper stamps with laurels. The 2 gl. 50 c. is printed in two colours—the centre in blue, the frame in carmine-rose, and it was issued on the 1st ult. All

the new values are printed in one colour. Their emission is authorised by a decree of the 6th June last, and the following are the denominations:—

5 cent.	blue.
10 "	carmine.
15 "	brown.
20 "	green.
25 "	violet.
50 "	chamois.

Thus, with the exception of the 50 c., the colours of the existing series will be repeated in the new type. The values will be issued separately, as fast as those of the present series are exhausted. The advance in design is a noticeable fact. European stamps count so many mediocrities in their number that any addition to the small selection of really artistic impressions is most welcome. As nothing is said about post cards, we presume they will remain *in statu quo*, and Dutch envelopes are still unthought of.

UNITED STATES.—This large and well-engraved stamp is used, as its inscription purports, for registered letters. It is printed a

pale green,

on white,

possesses

no mone-

tary value,

and is at-

tached to

the letters

by the post-

al officials;

our Bir-

mingham

contempo-

rary may,

therefore,

hardly

deem it col-

lectable,

but we ap-

prehend

that most

philatelists

will find a

corner—and it must be a large one—for it.

After all, it is only affixed to the letter after the

payment of a charge which covers a specially

guaranteed mode of transport, and, there-

fore, it appears to us to fall within the cate-

gory of postage stamps. It is true that the

same purpose would be served by the im-

pression of the word "registered," with a

hand-stamp; but so, also, might the ordinary

postage be indicated. The end gained in

attaching an adhesive label is the presence of

a plainly visible sign of the registration of

the letter, and perhaps, also, an economy, in

that the stamp replaces sealing-wax. We will not pretend that much time is saved, for such a large sized impression would not "stick with a lick," but would require more extensive moistening. The idea of using a large stamp is probably borrowed from the Colombian vignettes, which serve a similar purpose. There is a long and interesting letter about the United States registration system in *The Philatelic Journal*; but, strange to say, nothing is said about the use of the stamp above represented.

SPAIN.—More than one type has been described and illustrated in this and other journals as the real Simon Pure of the forthcoming series; but, for one



reason or another, all have ultimately been rejected, and the annexed design has, it is now stated, been definitely adopted. Time will prove; meanwhile we insert the engraving for what it may turn out to be worth.

M. Moens says that the tricolour impression, for which the recently appointed committee of engravers expressed a preference, will not take place; but, he adds, with a knowledge of the uncertainty which characterises all the acts of the Spanish administration, it is not impossible but that this decision may be reconsidered. The new design has not a very great deal to recommend it, unless it is calumniated by our engraving. The king, who has declared his intention to defend his throne at the sword's point, if necessary, can hardly be the lymphatic youth here represented.

SPANISH COLONIES.—*Philippines*.—Annexed is an engraving of the recently-designed type for the Philippines, which was described in our May number, from an uncompleted proof. Since then the value has been added on the side labels; for it has positively been adopted, and is at the present moment being worked off.

The engraver, M. Fernandez, says our Belgian authority, did not live long to rejoice over the acceptance of his work; he died on

the 13th May. Two values are already known of this new type—the 16 cents de peseta, ultramarine; and the 62 cents, mauve. It is said that three other values are to make their appearance, viz., 125 c., violet; 250 c., rose; 500 c., grey. Meanwhile, the Philippine authorities, for lack of the long deferred supplies, are said to be engaged in reissuing the old series, with head of Isabella, surcharged *HABILITADO POR LA NACION*.

Cuba.—This colony, like the preceding, is likely to possess a supply of stamps with a portrait intended to represent Amadens, before the mother-country has any. Without any preliminary flourish of trumpets, the annexed design has been adopted, and is now, *on dit*, being printed off. The type so modestly ushered in is stated by the above quoted authority to be the best executed of all. One value only is known at present—the 12 cent de peseta, black. Pending the issue, an extra stamp of the 1870 type has been issued—the 12 c. de peseta, carmine-rose; but it is distinguished from the older values by the absence of the date.

PRUSSIA.—*The Philatelist* announces the discovery of "a fac-simile of the Prussian 2 agr., eagle type, but considerably smaller, and of a much less azure blue. Being closely cut, it is impossible to pronounce it envelope or adhesive, but it looks more like the former, although the back is gummed; but this, probably, from its having been taken from an old album in which it had been affixed. It has passed the post, and is undoubtedly genuine. The postmark is BERLIN PE 27 11/7 /67 3-4 N." *The American Journal of Philately*, following suit, writes as follows:—"We have lately seen a 4 pf. green envelope stamp of this country; it is not an entire envelope, but has evidently passed the post;" and our contemporary, in his next number, says: "We are indebted to a collector for the information that the 4 pf. envelope described last month, together with a 2 pf. (both arms in octagon), were used during the war with Austria, to carry

medicines to the soldiers." Had our American cousin taken the trouble to refer to the sixth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 26, he would have found that the 4 pf. stamp was issued by the VICTORIA NATIONAL INVALIDEN-STIFTUNG, a benevolent association, which during the Austrian war enjoyed certain privileges. As to the 2 agr., eagle type, nothing certain is known, but we incline to think it must have had a somewhat similar origin to that of the 4 pf. Seeing, then, that doctors disagree so widely, we refrain from offering any opinion of our own as to this latter stamp. As to the first-mentioned stamp, this wonderful resuscitation is doubtless that used by the Victoria Invaliden-Stiftung.

SWEDEN.—In our February number we announced that, instead of a new series, only two new values, a 6 öre and one rix daler, were on the point of being issued. This information turns out to be inaccurate. The 6 öre and 1 rix-daler have just made their appearance, but they are accompanied by all the pre-

viously existing values, except the 9 öre. The opportunity for indicating an advance in the engraving art (if any such advance has been made) has not been taken advantage of. The new design is extremely plain and unpretending. The stamps merit the appellation of clean-looking, and that is about all. The fatal nu-

meral—fatal except in very gifted hands, to anything like real gracefulness—occupies the centre of a solid circular disk. The ring which encircles the disk bears the inscription FRI-MARKE in its upper half,

and the value in the lower. The rest of the space is filled with a rather fine network, and beneath the circle, in a straight line, is the word SVERIGE; but as it is not on a label it mingles with the groundwork, and on some of the values is nearly illegible. The ground is enclosed in a lined frame, which forms a kind of etruscan ornament at the

corners, and this is again surrounded by a plain rectangle. This description applies to all the values except the highest—the rix-daler—which, instead of the prosaic numeral, bears, as a central device, the hardly less prosaic arms, consisting of the three crowns, on an horizontal lined ground. In all other respects the design is the same, but the rix-daler is printed in two colours, the centre in blue, the rest in buff. In size the new stamps are about equal to the current German series. They are printed on a rather rough, dull white paper, and neatly perforated. The colours are as follows:—

3 öre	light brown.
5 "	pale green.
6 "	lilac.
12 "	blue.
20 "	red.
24 "	orange-yellow.
30 "	dark brown.
50 "	rose.
1 rix-daler	blue and buff.

GERMANY.—We copy from the *General Postamt* (General Post Office), of Berlin, the following notice of a forth-

coming sub-type of the existing series of adhesives, which is to differ from the first edition in the shape of the eagle. It says,—

"The imperial eagle in the centre of the German postage stamps does not exactly correspond in shape to the eagle of the imperial arms, adopted since their issue. Since the 1st June the royal (*royal*, imperial) printing-office uses new dies, on which the form of the eagle, definitively settled, differs from that of the preceding type, principally in the enlargement of the central ground, and the addition of scrolls to the crown." Our Birmingham contemporary has already seen one of the new 1 agr., and says that the shield surcharged on the eagle is four times larger than on the first die; the ground is composed of dots placed vertically, instead of obliquely, as before, and the general effect is to embolden the somewhat dull appearance of the plain centre. We have ourselves received a specimen of the new unstamped post card, of which five are

sold to the public for a quarter groschen, and on comparing it with the former emission, we notice the same striking increase as on the adhesive, in the size of the escutcheon; we also observe that the Prussian eagle, with which the escutcheon is charged, which used to be inscribed across the breast with the initials F.R., now bears a shield, of which the alternate quarters are black and white, respectively. The new card is much smaller and thicker than the old one, and is inscribed POSTKARTE.

WURTEMBERG.—A reduction has been decided on throughout Germany in the price of post cards. Two krenzers, or half a groschen, is the universal rate, and it came into operation on the 1st ult. As a first-fruit of this measure the Wurtemberg 3 kr. and reply cards have been withdrawn, and one kreuzer cards, with an adhesive 1 kr. stamp added, have been provisionally issued, pending the preparation of a new 2 kr. card. The latter will be inscribed POSTKARTE, and not *Correspondenz-carte*, like its predecessor. For these particulars we are indebted to *Le Timbre-Poste*.

JAPAN.—A perforated set of Japanese stamps is a totally unexpected novelty, yet it appears that it exists. We have before us a specimen, perf. 11, colour deep brown, of the same general design as its imperforated congener, but from a new die, on a crisp, thin, white paper, and with different inscriptions in the centre. The characters are written much smaller, and of the two which represent the value, one is new both to the editor of *The Philatelic Journal* and ourselves. It is also to be noticed that the inscriptions are transposed, the value being now uppermost. The effect of the reduction in the size of the characters is to leave a considerable blank space in the centre. Notice of a perforated blue stamp has been sent to the Birmingham magazine, and the correspondent from whom we hold our brown specimen, says he possesses an entire set—presumably composed of the four known colours. It seems probable that a thorough alteration has occurred in the rates, but in a few weeks we shall, no doubt, have positive intelligence on this point.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—We are now able to present our readers with illustrations of the two and twelve cent values of the new series, and may take occasion to remark that the doubt as to the true colour of the 10 c. has not yet been cleared up by the Belgian journal. We may also observe that *The American Jour-*

nal of Philately speaks of the probable issue of two more values, to complete the new series, a thirteen and a twenty-four cents.

MOZAMBIQUE.—The belief in the mythical issue for this colony, originally announced by *Le Timbre-Poste*, is finally exploded by M. Moens himself, who for some time was under the impression that a supply of all the values was on its way to him. M. Moens quotes the following letter, received by him from Lisbon:—

"No stamps are printed here for that colony. If Mozambique has any special stamps, which I doubt, they must be made on the island. I hope shortly to be able to fix you definitely on the subject."

If no stamps should be forthcoming, the album-makers who have left space for them will not thank the editor of the Belgian paper for misleading them.

CASHMERE.—*The Philatelic Journal* chronicles a green circular stamp, similar in general appearance to the other values of the circular type. The centre of the specimen which our contemporary described was too blurred to admit of his speaking with any certainty as to the value; it resembles the half anna more than any other, and such *The Philatelic Journal* believes it to be, if it is not an entirely new value.

MADEIRA AND THE AZORES.—Of the new series for these possessions the following values have lately made their appearance:

Madeira.—

50 reis,	bright yellowish-green.
80 "	orange.
120 "	blue.

Azores.—

80 reis, orange.
100 „ pale lilac.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The same authority announces the issue of a second edition of the surcharged stamps, amongst which the 12 cents figures in a very rich shade of carmine red, and the 2 c. is found of a darker hue; it also states that there is a possibility of a fresh series being emitted, adorned with the portrait of the respected Cacomban.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—The postal value of the handstamped impression, FALKLAND ISLANDS, PAID, varies, according to the weight of the letter it franks, from 6d. to 7s. 6d., and, perhaps, higher. The amount is written at the side of the impression, and as a contemporary remarks, in a philatelic light, one specimen is sufficient, and of equal value, whether the written inscription reads sixpence or seven-and-sixpence.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the shilling stamp (rect.) of the first sub-type now comes over printed a very deep green, and *The Philatelic Journal* furnishes us with information, that the one penny (new die) is in a rich shade of carmine; the 5s. of a rich chrome yellow and in burnt sienna of the water-colour makers; and that the 4d. blue is again in use.

MEXICO.—The stamps of the new type recently received have the surcharged name in ordinary characters, printed in an arch, above the portrait. M. Moens has met with specimens of the 25c., 50c., and 100c., bearing an undecipherable watermark near the edge.

A LETTER-BOX ON FIRE.—The contents of the letter-box at the Bordeaux post-office were set fire to by an incendiary, about the 18th of last month. The postmaster issued a notice, in which, after saying that he considers it to be his duty to inform all whom it might concern, of the measures taken for despatching or returning to the senders the *débris* of the letters found in the box, he adds, "From the quantity of carbonised paper found in the box, there is reason to believe that a number of letters have been entirely destroyed. Twenty-six which were found intact were reforwarded; 27 slightly burnt were also despatched after annotation, 57 partly burnt have been sent on under a second envelope, 18 fragments of letters bearing the seals of commercial houses have been returned to the senders, the *débris* of 64 letters entirely carbonised are retained at the post-office, and 88 partly-burnt journals have been handed back to the publishers. Steps are being taken to have the box guarded from the outside at night."

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—II.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

FIRST SERIES.

THE first series of stamps for Austria was issued on the 1st of June, 1850. Mr. Overy Taylor, to whose paper we refer for the general description of this and all the remaining series, gives the date as the 10th of June, but we believe it to be an error.

The series continued in use during a period of upwards of eight years; and, as might be anticipated, in the course of so long an existence it went through several phases of variety.*

It is unfortunate that we can gather but little information from the obliterating marks on these stamps. There appears to be a want of uniformity in them; and though, in common with many of the obliterating marks used in Germany, they not unfrequently bear the date of the day and the month, yet very few bear that of the year; and we have been able to find none of a date anterior to 1855.

With respect to the gumming, all the specimens which we have found, from the year 1855 to the close of the series, are furnished with a thick coating of some adhesive matter, which, from its toughness, and from its swelling and turning into a kind of jelly when put into water, we take to be dextrine. Specimens of an earlier date, however, are to be found, with gum of a darker colour and more friable. The impressions on these specimens are invariably in brighter and clearer colours.

M. Berger-Levrault describes this series as being printed on *papier vergé blanc*; by which, as he explains it subsequently, he means hand-made paper, not necessarily marked with lines in the grain. Having had the opportunity of examining a very large number of stamps of this series, we can safely

* Before going farther, I would once for all acknowledge with thanks the liberal manner in which M. Moens, Mr. Young, and other dealers have at all times permitted me to examine their extensive stocks. The assistance thus given is incalculable; I have been enabled by it to examine, even in the first series for Austria, some thousands of specimens.

say that M. Berger-Levrault is in error, for all the later portion of the series is printed on paper similar to that employed for the second series, which is plain stout wove. We have, consequently, two distinct classes in the first series; one on hand-made paper, and the other on wove. From an examination of the obliterating marks, it does not appear probable that the wove paper was employed prior to 1856-7.

The hand-made paper presents considerable varieties of texture and substance. Varieties of colour may also be observed, the older copies being yellow; but this discolouration is probably in a great degree owing to the gum, which, upon such copies, is of a darker colour. We see but little good to be gained by seeking to subdivide this class. It is sufficient to say that the paper is rough and unsurfaced, varying a good deal in thickness; it shows no distinct lines or *vergeures*, except in some few copies of the 3 kreuzer value. This latter paper does not appear to be what is commonly called *laid*, but ought rather to be called ribbed paper.

The stamps were printed in sheets of sixty, disposed in rows of eight. As the sixty stamps only made seven-and-a-half rows, the remaining four blanks were filled up by St. Andrew's crosses of the same colour as the die of the impression, on a white ground; thus making a symmetrical sheet of eight stamps in eight rows. A curious fact is noticed in M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue, viz., the existence of a rouletted copy of the blue cross. In the beautiful collection of a Brussels amateur, a copy also exists of a similar cross, machine perforated 15. As no stamps in this series have been found either rouletted or machine perforated, it is fair to suppose that previously to the issue of the next series, experiments in perforation were made on some printed sheets of the 9 kreuzer of this series, which were never issued to the public.

The colours of the impressions present the following varieties.

- 1 kreuzer, ochre, to orange-yellow and bright yellow.
- 2 " intense black and black.
- 3 " bright vermilion, to scarlet and brick-red.
- 6 " red-brown, to warm brown and umber-brown.
- 9 " Prussian blue, to sky blue and dull light blue.

Classification.

I.—Hand-made paper, varying in thickness, and in colour from yellowish to dead white.

- 1 kreuzer, ochre (shades).
- 1 " orange-yellow (shades). Specimens are not uncommonly found printed on both sides.
- 1 " chrome-yellow (shades).
- 2 " intense black, black.
- 3 " vermilion (shades).
- 3 " scarlet (shades). Specimens are to be found on paper showing *vergeures*, but they are exceedingly rare.
- 6 " red-brown (shades), warm brown (shades).
- 9 " Prussian blue (shades), sky-blue, dull blue (shades).

II.—Wove paper, white and smooth.

- 1 kreuzer, Naples yellow (shades), light chrome-yellow.
- 2 " black.
- 3 " scarlet, brick-red to very pale red.
- 6 " light umber-brown.
- 9 " light Prussian blue.

NOTES ON THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA. III.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from vol. x., p. 37.)

THE next group of Expresses includes:—

Sept., 1849, Hawley & Co.

May, 1850, Angle & Co.

Dec., 1851, Freeman & Co.

Now, according to Mr. Todd, the second Express ever started ran under the name of Hawley & Co., and was owned by Messrs. Hawley & Spear; the only printed notices have been supplied to me by Mr. Lomler, and they are the following:—

MAY 18, 1850, ANGLE & Co.

ANGLE & CO.'S EXPRESS TO SACRAMENTO.—Letters, gold dust, &c., forwarded. Office at Messrs. Fitts and Tilden's, San Francisco. Justus Spear, proprietor.

MARCH 20, 1850. HAWLEY & Co.

HAWLEY & CO.'S EXPRESS TO THE ATLANTIC STATES.—Agents at Sacramento, Benicia, Fremont, Marysville, Nicolaus, Eliza City, &c., &c. T. R. Hawley, owner.

From these advertisements it is evident that Mr. Spear, if he actually was a partner in Hawley & Co., in 1849 seceded and joined Angle & Co., which Express in May, 1850, was entirely in his own hands; but I am inclined to think Angle & Co. (T. Spear, owner) and Hawley & Co. (J. R. Hawley, owner) contemporaneous and distinct; for it

appears that on July 1, 1850, Angle & Co. were *bought out* by Hawley & Co., at the same date the latter firm being joined by Mr. J. M. Freeman. Mr. Hawley having purchased Mr. Spear's Express, would, of course, account for the connection of the names in Mr. Todd's memory; our explanation, if correct, as we believe, would give Hawley & Co. starting Sept., 1849, absorbing Angle & Co. in July, 1850, and being themselves changed to the style of Freeman & Co's Express some time during 1851, when the partner of that name bought the whole business. We have seen no franks of either Angle or Hawley.

1851. FREEMAN & Co.—This was one of the largest and most flourishing Expresses of the early days, and continued in operation till June, 1860. The handstamps are not numerous; indeed the only one which I have is oval.

The following advertisement is transcribed from a paper of the year 1851:—

FREEMAN & CO.'S EXPRESS—

DAILY to SACRAMENTO CITY, MARYSVILLE and NEVADA CITY. F. & CO. have safes in their express rooms on board the fast steamers Senator, New World, and Gov. Dana, for the security of treasure entrusted to them, which is always accompanied by faithful messengers. Orders, bills, packages, &c., forwarded, and all business pertaining to an Express promptly attended to.

F. & CO. is the only firm in the Valley of the Sacramento connecting with Messrs. ADAMS & CO., on whom they are authorized to draw Bills of Exchange for any amount payable in New Orleans, New York, and all the principal cities of the Atlantic States.

Offices—San Francisco, in Adams & Co.'s new fire proof building.

Sacramento City, at 42, Second street.

Marysville, at Snow & Lunt, on the Plaza.

Bowers & Co. connect with us at Sacramento from Nevada City.

Langton & Co. connect with us at Sacramento from Downsville.

The printed franks and varieties, which are numerous, will be described in due order.

In an old directory we find the following notices:—

FREEMAN & CO.'S ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN EXPRESS, Office N.E. cor Sac'o and Mont'y. Established in 1849 under the above style as an Interior Express, having principal offices in San Francisco and Sacramento, from which branches radiated throughout the State. June, 1852, Mr. Freeman became connected with the celebrated house of Adams & Co., from which he withdrew July 14th, 1853, and after a prolonged absence from California, during which he established expresses in the principal cities and towns on the west coast of South America. After the failure of Adams & Co. the above house re-established in this city May 16, 1855, and have expresses to and from all parts of the Atlantic States and Europe.

FREEMAN JOHN M. of FREEMAN & CO., N.E. cor Mont'y and Sac'o. Mr. Freeman may very properly lay claim to the position of pioneer of his present business in California.

This appears rather to invalidate the Hawley and Freeman arrangement above, but we feel sure that Mr. Todd was the pioneer expressman of California; for the rest we can only trust to time for a final correction.

Nov., 1849. BERFORD & Co.—This is not

quite so unknown as the majority of those we have so far described. In a paper of Dec. 26, 1849, is the following advertisement:—

BERFORD & CO., UNITED STATES AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS; AND INDEPENDENT MAIL CO. R. G. Berford & Co., San Francisco T. J. Bayless & Co., Sacramento; Charles Plitt & Co., San Jose. Run to Atlantic States, Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose, and Interior.

According to another advertisement of Dec. 21, 1851, the owners were R. G. Berford and J. C. Hackett, but the following ought to be quoted first; (the name now drops "California" Express it will be noticed, which distinction appears on the franks).

BERFORD & CO.'S EXPRESS.

FOR THE ATLANTIC STATES, November 1st, 1851, by the splendid fast running Steamer,

Tennessee,

GEO. M. TOTTEN, Commander.

A Special Messenger will be despatched as usual, who will take charge of our Express, Goods, Gold Dust, etc., and deliver to all parts of the States without delay, and on the most reasonable terms. We will also send

A Special Messenger

by the new route, via Nicaragua, Nov. 1st, by the new and fast running Steamer,

Pacific, JARVIS, Master,

who will take charge of our INDEPENDENT MAIL, and packages of every description.

Letters received till 3 o'clock, and parcels till 2 o'clock on day of sailing.

BERFORD & CO.,

California Exchange,

Corner of Clay and Kearny streets.

We cannot add anything more to these dry details, so, not to waste time and space, will summarily describe the franks. They may be briefly divided into two types.

1st. *Berford & Co.'s California Express, Paid.* This is found stamped in black, blue, and greenish ink; large transverse oval.

2nd. *Berford & Co.'s Express, Paid.* This is stamped in black and blue ink; large transverse double oval; PAID in centre. This company, after a presumably prosperous career, was bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co., in June, 1854.

END OF 1849. ADAMS & Co. From a paper of Dec. 14, 1849, I find the names of the proprietors of this well-known express. They were Alvin Adams, Boston; Wm. B. Dinsmore, New York; and D. H. Haskell, San Francisco. They had lines to the Atlantic States and Interior, but failed in Feb. 23, 1855; at least so runs my information. The handstamps used were various, and I possess the following:—

1st. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Sacramento.* Star each side; red, transverse oval, on letters of February 14, 1852, and March 29, 1853.

2nd. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Stockton*, blue.

3rd. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Sonora*, blue.

Both transverse ovals, and probably in use in 1851, latter half.

4th. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Sacramento*.

Blue, large double circle, with date in centre. This is one of the few Express Companies that issued an adhesive stamp; its value was 25 cents, it was used in 1853, and it will be duly described in full. It was noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870.

The following will be described in our next paper:—

Gregory & Co.

Rowe & Co.

Rhodes & Co.

Rhodes & Whitney.

Blake.

Hunter & Co.

Wines & Co.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SICILIAN STAMPS, WITH HEAD OF FERDINAND II.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—It has sometimes been asserted that the *unused* Sicilian stamps of 1859 (which have been offered rather freely, and at a low price to collectors) are reprints, but I have been very slow to believe this; and I am now confirmed in my opinion that they are genuine "remainders," by the fact, that at this present time they have become comparatively scarce. Had they been reprints, there would have been no falling-off in the supplies.

Yours faithfully,

Norfolk.

K. T. Y.

THE RECENT POSTAGE-STAMP AUCTION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In a letter published by you in the last number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, under the title of "An American Collector on the recent Auction Sale," several statements are made that are entirely without foundation, and as our firm is mentioned, we deem it our duty to give the facts of the case to collectors.

First: neither Mr. Francis Foster nor any other collector has ever had the opportunity of purchasing a single specimen that was included in the late auction sale before that event came off; and with regard to leaving the prices to chance, we had four different standing offers of \$100 each for the 20 c. St. Louis, and were offered £100 for twenty stamps that were included in the sale, and those not all the scarcest ones.

Secondly: Mr. Foster—like all other discoverers of Confederate Locals—"secured all he ever saw or heard of," but so far from one being secured for a "fellow collector" (some special one being implied), it was left on sale with two different Boston dealers (S. A. Taylor and F. Trifet), and was finally sold to Dr. Petrie for \$20.

Hoping that you will do us the justice to insert this in the next number of the magazine.

We are, yours truly,

London.

J. W. SCOTT & CO.

THE PETERSBURG STAMP.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—As promised in my previous article on this stamp, I have made further inquiries in regard to the exact date of its issue, and have succeeded in obtaining the following important information on that subject. For a long time there seemed to be little or no chance of obtaining any clue to the date of issue, until Mr. Young (to whom I am again indebted) "discovered" a certain Mr. Steinback, who was a clerk in the Petersburg post-office, during the war.

The only way in which Steinback could even approximately fix the date of issue was by the death of Mr. H—— N———. The way in which Mr. N——— was concerned was this:—

Mr. N——— was a profound believer in Franklin's motto, "A penny saved is a penny earned," so when he bought fifty cents worth of the provisional stamps at the Petersburg post-office, he could not quite see the force of paying *fifty-one* cents. It seems that there was a rule that anyone buying so large a quantity as fifty cents worth, should contribute an extra cent, to defray the expenses of printing, &c. Well, to make a long story short, Mr. N———, who was among the first to buy the stamps, resisted the rule, and made it rather "lively" for the post-office clerks, and Steinback says that his death, shortly afterwards, was looked upon by them in the light of a special Providence, introduced to save them from being talked and worried to an untimely end. Taking these circumstances into consideration, Mr. Steinback fixes the date of issue as March, 1862, and the date after which no more were sold to the public as November, 1862, although, of course, there was nothing to prevent such persons as had previously purchased them from using them after that date. This accounts for a few specimens being found dated as late as February (1863).

In regard to the handstamp, the clerks recognize the blue (round) one, as the one generally used. It is probable that the black oval was used prior to the blue one, but given up in March or April, 1862.

The above, coming as it does from official sources, and added to the proof given in my last, leaves no longer any reason for doubting the genuine character of types I. and II., including their minor varieties, which latter are entirely due to the stamps being type-set.

And now, a few words in defence of the "Pleasant Shade." Most collectors know that this stamp is in every respect identical with Type II. of the Petersburg, and having proved the genuine character of the latter, it may naturally be inferred that "Pleasant Shade" is likewise authentic. But *this* is not the point that has been disputed. Some of our European collectors base their doubts on the ground that "no such place is to be found on the map." Perhaps if they will again be good enough to turn to the state of Virginia in their atlas, and follow the Petersburg and Weldon R. R., they will find in Brunswick Co. a station by the name of Hicksford, and near by the mysterious "Pleasant Shade," whence emanated the label in question. I may state that Campbell, the printer of the Petersburg stamps, distinctly remembers having printed a similar one for Pleasant Shade also.

Yours truly,

New York.

CHARLES H. COSTER.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—*Honduras—Ecuador—Chili—Alsace and Lorraine—Venezuela.*]

The Philatelist.—The July and August numbers are both well up to the usual standard. The principal articles in the former are the Parisian Collector's notes on "The Envelopes of Germany," "The Philatelic Press," and the "Notes on the Chilean Stamps of the first Emission." In the latter the "Spud Papers" come to the fore, together with a prize essay, from the pen of the Rev. R. B. Earée.

In the "Notes on the Envelopes of Germany" a short sketch of the Tour and Taxis office is given, which the writer believed to be the first information published in an English magazine respecting it; but, in reality, the history he gives was translated by *Le Timbre-Poste* from an article, written by Mr. Mount Brown, which appeared in the first number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Thus much in rectification; the repetition of the details given so long ago cannot be otherwise than acceptable to the new generation of stamp-collectors which has since arisen.

The only noteworthy item in "The Philatelic Press" is the explanation, quoted from *Le Timbrophile*, of the impression of the Honduras and Ecuador stamps in two colours. The green 1 real of each country is reserved exclusively for home service, whilst the 1 real pink of Honduras and yellow of Ecuador are, respectively, used for foreign correspondence only.

From the paper on the Chilean stamps we learn, that the law authorising their emission is dated October, 1852; that the metallic plates were engraved in England, and were sent out with the first supply of labels. The 1 c. was issued alone, after the three other values, and not in 1852, but in the following year. In 1854 the 10 c. was for the first time made to do duty for the 5 c., by being diagonally halved.

In a reply to a correspondent the editor states that the whole of the surplus stock of the Alsace and Lorraine stamps has been destroyed; if so, we may expect to see those that are in the hands of dealers rising in price. By the way, is the designation of

these stamps as Alsace and Lorraine quite accurate? They were used wherever the Germans effected a lodgment, and at least as far north as Amiens.

The "Spud" paper, in the August number, unearths some very dangerous Venezuelan forgeries. Of the first type the most easily recognisable points in the counterfeits are the white spot above the E in CORREO, and the position of the Z in VENEZUELA, which falls just under the EO of CORREO. The forged medio-centavo of 1861 has the D of LIBERTAD at some distance from the end of the ribbon, whilst in the original it is close to the end; furthermore, the forgery shows a very small dot over the I of MEDIO; the true stamp has the dot full and distinct.

"How shall we Collect" is a well-written paper, arguing in favour of collection after the French style, and we can but regret that it should have been held back so long, as its arguments have lost some of the freshness they would have possessed at the time it was written—two years ago. Yet it would still do our American friends some good to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the precepts it contains. They are the most obstinate rejectors of an extended system of collecting; but even they will, sooner or later, come round.

The editor of *The Philatelist*, in a short paragraph treating of the proceedings of the Philatelic Society, complains that we represented the recent meetings at Dr. Viner's house as unofficial. We certainly thought they were so, from the terms in which they were referred to by our correspondent; but, to prevent any misunderstanding in future, the simplest thing would be for the assistant-secretary to send us a copy of his minutes of the proceedings, if he be so minded. We may add, that as the business of the meetings in question was confined to the comparison of collections, and no serious work was done, there was all the more reason for our supposition that they were unofficial.

Le Timbre-Poste.—In discussing the contents of the July number we omitted to refer to the article on the "Perforation of the Spanish Stamps," or rather their *piquage*. Several trials were made in 1858 on some sheets of 4 cuartos stamps of the 1857 type,

and M. Moens has received specimens of these stamps, which, it turns out, are not *piqué*, but perforated after the fashion of some of the St. Thomas and La Guaira stamps. In 1862 the engraver, M. Alabern, obtained a machine from M. Susse, of Paris, and it was tried on some sheets of 4 cuartos, of the 1862 type, printed in brown on white, but was rejected because it was not capable of turning out, within a given time, the required number of stamps. Finally, Messrs. Gouweloos Brothers, of Brussels, after giving proof of their ability to meet the long-felt want, received the order to supply two of their machines in 1864, and they were employed to perforate the 1865 series.

The August number is composed of the Chronicle, an instalment of Dr. Magnus's monograph on envelope stamps, and an article on the German field-post service during the late war, in which is detailed the completeness of the arrangements made to secure the regular exchange of correspondence between the German soldiers and their friends, who "sat at home at ease" (?). The following extract will exemplify the style of the article:—

"It was principally under the sheds and in the barns that the army post-office installed itself. On arriving at the bivouac the postal waggons were drawn up, and a sort of intrenchment formed, behind which the officials set to work. Tables for sorting were improvised, or the clerks grouped themselves on the ground, the quicker to get through the work. This encampment was the signal for everyone to get ready his correspondence. For lack of a desk, the soldiers scribbled away, no matter how or where. It was on such occasions that the utility of the post card was appreciated; to pull one out of the haversack, and trace upon it a few hasty words of remembrance, was the work of a minute. The administration had had twelve millions of these cards printed, and they were distributed among the soldiers on their entry into active service. The simple private, equally with the officer of the highest grade, no matter where he might be,—at the bivouac, the advanced posts, or in the trenches,—received his letters from home as regularly as in the piping times of peace.

The American Journal of Philately.—From the last number we learn that the collection of that well-known amateur, Mr. Lomler, of San Francisco, is to be sold by auction. No doubt it will turn out to be exceptionally rich in scarce Californian franks. The Charleston and Columbia stamps are treated of by Mr. Scott, and then comes a long article on the "United States Newspaper Stamps," which is as uninteresting as the unpostal labels (to coin an expression) of which it treats. The monthly chronicle, reviews, "Correspondence," and the "Answers to Correspondents," complete the number. In the "Answers" we commenced reading with interest the editor's promise to a correspondent,—*"We will endeavour to embrace;"*—but the completion of the sentence—*"the information you require"*—was disappointing. Still it gives us a hint; we shall know what to do with information the next time we meet with it.

The Philatetical Journal.—The current number opens with an announcement which we feel sure will give rise to general regret; the editor has been laid up by a severe attack of rheumatic fever, and "at the time of writing he is still unpronounced out of danger." If the good wishes of philatelists everywhere can avail, his recovery will be speedy and complete. The number under review is as readable as its predecessors, but, perhaps because the keen editorial eye has been absent, we notice a few rather prominent typographical slips; thus, *habilitado*, on p. 138, is written "*habitado*;" "*cronicled*" does duty for *chronicled*, and "*Mada*," p. 139, for *Madka*. The "*Cream of the Magazines*" is briefer than usual, but the quality of the cream leaves nothing to be desired. Complaint is made that American writers do not come forward with their information until English philatelists have treated on subjects respecting which their American brethren are, or profess to be, *au fait*; but we do not think too much should be made of this circumstance. Our United States friends, like many other people, are not aware of the extent of their own knowledge until they meet with statements which they find it to be in their power to correct; but they ought to be grateful to English writers for amicably

stirring them up; whilst the latter should rejoice to find that their painstaking attempts to elucidate doubtful points, attain the desired end of eliciting further information. As to the question of the Petersburg stamp, it is a very pretty quarrel as it stands between Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Coster, and a fair field and no favour is all that the disputants require to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion.

After the list of new issues comes the "Black List," in which figures a specimen of the forged Prince Edward Island 4 cents, alluded to elsewhere in this number; and to that succeeds an article, by Mr. W. Vipond, on "Franks, Post and Cancelling Marks," which, without pretending to the character of a complete list, promises to be both interesting and instructive. Among other curious marks is an illustration of the handstamp struck on franked letters before the introduction of cheap postage. It consists of a plain circle, with a roughly outlined crown at the top, and, within, the word FREE in block capitals, followed by the date in two lines. No one, we believe, has yet noticed the curious postmark lately adopted in the London post-office for printed matter. It consists of what we may term four thick lines, with fan-shaped outer extremities, and in the angles the three letters, N. P. B., signifying, we presume, *Newspaper Branch*. The figure 5 in the upper compartment we cannot explain. This mark completely cancels the stamp to which it is applied.

In the "Reviews of Philatelic Publications" is quoted the programme of a philatelic congress and ball, copied from the *Allgemeiner Briefmarken-Anzeiger*; and as it is such an entire novelty, we in turn borrow it from the pages of our Birmingham contemporary.

PHILATELICAL CONGRESS.

In Lübeck,

ON SUNDAY, THE 14TH JULY, 1872.

Order of the Day.

Assembly of visitors in Lübeck: 7 o'clock and after. General entertainment; and breakfast in the local Exchange Hall, by the widow Lüdemann, until

10.30 a.m.

Discussion as to the spreading of philatelic knowledge, &c., &c.

12.30.

End of the discussion, and dinner; some in the Exchange Hall, and others in the private houses of Lübeck amateurs.

1.30.

Meeting on board the steam-boat, "Martha;" during the trip, music by the 76th Fusiliers' band.

2.30.

Landing of the visitors.

3 o'clock.

Concert.

5 o'clock.

Supper.

8.30 p.m.

Commencement of the ball, to be kept up till morning. Among other music will be played the new *Hamburger Briefmarken-Burse Waltz*, and the *Doppler'sche und Hamm'sche Briefmarken-Polka*.

15th July, 7 a.m.

Departure of the visitors to catch the train reaching Hamburg at 9 o'clock.

With the help of the fair sex, says *The Phil. Journal*, the philatelic ball proved by its attractive power that some attraction can be derived from our science. To report the proceedings in appropriate terms, it should be said that they created an impression which will not be easily obliterated from the minds of those present; let us hope that stamps on the toes formed no part of the entertainment.

A long piece of rhyme follows the reviews, dedicated "To our Foster-brother, Gentle James." The writer, certainly not without reason, invokes "Apollo's aid to harmonise his numbers;" but his appeal, to judge by the frequently halting rhyme, seems not to have been favourably heard. The poem, if we may so term it, is a mistake from beginning to end, for it is pretty certain that the readers of the *Phil. Journal* will hardly care for such a piece of personality. If Mr. Foster, the person referred to, is what the poet hints at his being, then he is decidedly unworthy of two columns of print in such a journal as the *Philatelic*, and in any case his character and doings have no public interest whatever. The shower of sarcasms which the rhymes contain might read well in a private letter, but the "poem" as it stands, forming part of the contents of *The Philatelic Journal*, exactly answers to Lord Palmerston's well-known definition of dirt—matter in the wrong place.

BRITISH PACKET AGENCIES.

BY REV. ROBERT B. EARLE.

REPRINTED FROM "THE PHILATELICAL JOURNAL."

IN my search for information concerning La Guaira and its stamps, for my article of last month, I came across a few facts concerning our foreign postal arrangements, which I thought might be interesting to the readers of this journal; and though, as I have said, my facts are few, yet they *are* facts, and have come to me from direct official sources. I am aware that officials, as a rule, though very positive in their statements, are not always very correct in them. For instance, I *have* heard of officials, on being asked for information concerning certain stamps, assuring their correspondents that the said stamps had no existence, save in their correspondents' too fertile imagination, and, at the same time, prepaying their reply with half-a-dozen or so of the very stamps in question! But the information of which I speak is from *intelligent* officials, and may be relied upon. Till quite lately, I had a very vague idea as to the meaning of the words which form the title of this article; and, as some of my philatelic friends may possibly be in a similar predicament, I will endeavour to enlighten them as far as I can.

In the first place, a British packet agency may be said to be an English local post-office in a foreign country, and the agent himself to be the local postmaster. An official of this sort is, of course, not required in countries with which we have a postal convention (such as France, Germany, the United States, &c.); for by these conventions we guarantee that *their* correspondence, &c., shall be taken care of, and delivered free of charge; and the foreign governments, in like manner, make themselves responsible for *our* letters. But in the case of irresponsible governments,—here to-day, and gone to-morrow, where the king (president, ruler, chief, call him what you will), may be crowned one day, and assassinated and buried the next,—a convention would be of no use; and *then* comes the necessity for the British packet agents. These gentlemen are stationed by the English government at all the ports where letters from England are

landed, in those countries which have no convention with us; and *they* take charge of the letters, and distribute or forward them as the case may be.* They take charge, in like manner, of the letters which are to be sent to England; and if the sender wish to prepay his missives, in order that the addressee here may receive them post-free, the agent will sell him *English* stamps for that purpose.

I suppose I need scarcely acquaint my readers that *no* country, unless it has a convention with our government, can *frank* its letters to England. For instance, if a man who is living in the interior of Brazil send a letter here, the stamps on that letter will frank it to the sea-port from whence it will be despatched, *and no farther*. If he were to amuse himself by covering both front and back of the envelope with stamps, the result would be still the same, and the delighted recipient would be obliged to disburse coin, to the amount of a shilling, or even more, before he could obtain possession of his letter. I believe, though, that letters from these "unconventional" countries (to use the word in a new sense) are not charged double postage if the sender omits to prepay them,—so there is no very great hardship after all. Indeed, it would not be at all fair to charge double for them; for how is my supposititious man in the interior of Brazil to get English stamps, when the nearest agent lives, perhaps, hundreds of miles from him? He must content himself with prepaying his letter as far as the port; and there the Brazilian government washes its hands of all responsibility. The letter then becomes the property of her Majesty's Postmaster-General, and our agent receives and forwards it by the next mail-steamer.

In many places the consul is the packet agent, especially where there is not much correspondence. In Fiji, for instance, this is the case. Our worthy old friend, *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, in this month's issue, asks why the English Consul at Fiji super-

* [The writer of this interesting paper has since recognised that he was inaccurate in stating that the agent *distributed* the letters for South America received by him, the fact being that he simply forwards them to the post-office of the town where he resides, after which his responsibility ceases.—ED. S. C. M.]

intended the issue of stamps for that lively group of islands; but, seeing that he is *postmaster* for England, as well as *consul*, it seems to me that it was only a part of his duty to look after the postage stamps; especially when we remember that the Fiji stamps certainly frank letters to our colony of Australia, and very probably (though I do not know this for a fact) to England itself.

In some places our packet agents "have a good time of it," as our transatlantic brethren would say; but their agencies are not *all* "sugar." My official friend says, "I opened a mail from Cobija the other day, and found a very touching sentence written in the corner of the letter-bill, by the packet agent's chief clerk, announcing that the unfortunate agent had been wrecked from his boat, in an expedition 'up country,' and devoured by alligators." At Arica, too, about a couple of years ago, the whole of the post-office, packet agent and all, was swallowed up by an earthquake, and nothing, living or dead, was left to tell the tale! And besides these little episodes, it should be borne in mind that, in most of these out-of-the-way places, the life of a European is pleasantly varied by attacks of ague, yellow fever, &c., not forgetting the mosquitoes; which last, though small, are decidedly energetic and sharp (especially as to their trunks), and might have been upheld by Dr. Watts, instead of the "busy bee," as examples of industry and perseverance under trying circumstances. In *one* thing the British packet agents have less trouble than their *confrères*, the home officials: I mean with regard to unpaid letters. It is not generally known that unpaid letters, or insufficiently prepaid letters, for Mexico, Haiti, and other places, which have no convention with us, are not forwarded at all, but are sent on to the Dead Letter Office, opened, and returned to the sender; and, therefore, it is evident that all anxiety and responsibility on this score, rest with the home officials, and not with the packet agents. If those poor agents lived in more civilised places, we might expect that the English government would send out the unpaid letters as well as the others, and look to the agents for the collection of the charges;

but, as it is, that burden is not laid upon them *yet*. I have spoken of Haiti and Mexico—fancy what the agent has to contend with there! In Haiti, he has to do with (vulgarly speaking) a lot of naked niggers; and in Mexico he has to live amongst a set of people who are a little bit nigger, a little bit Indian, a little bit Spanish, and *not* a little bit rogues, thieves, and vagabonds! And as the agents would never be able to get the angelic creatures who inhabit those favoured climes to pay the postage on unpaid letters, we never trouble them with any.

I have been unable, as yet, to obtain a list of the places which boast of the luxury of a packet agent, but I fancy that the number of officials located by our government in "foreign parts," is much greater than is generally supposed by the uninitiated public. We have no convention with any of the numerous states and republics of South America (even Brazil, large and important as it is, is included in this statement), and therefore, all over South America, our packet agents will be found scattered tolerably thickly. The same may be said of the Hawaiian and Fiji Islands, of various places on the coast of Africa, &c., &c. With regard to Fiji, is it possible that this emission of stamps, inspected as it was by our consul (and packet agent), points to an intended future annexation of the said islands by our government? It may be;—"quien sabe."

One word concerning our colonies. In saying that the stamps of very many countries will not frank letters to England, our foreign possessions are always excepted; for *their* stamps are always able to do this, and to cause the letters which bear them to be delivered free of charge here.

I think I have said quite as much as I need, or as my readers desire, though I must acknowledge that I have not said as much as I *could* say. I will only add that packet agents are not over paid by any means,—that they have plenty of work to do for their money,—that they are, in many places, entirely cut off from intercourse with white men for long periods,—that the climate is almost always unhealthy where they are stationed,—and that they generally get

heartily sick very soon, and too often come home invalided for life. These are cheerful statements, but I do not think I have coloured my facts too highly; and I fancy that my readers will agree with me that, all things considered, to stay quietly at home in England is decidedly preferable to being a British packet agent.

[As a supplement to the foregoing we may add the following particulars respecting the British packet agency at Valparaiso, given in a letter to *The Philatelic Journal* by our friend Mr. L. W. Meyer:—

“On the arrival of any steamer bringing British mails, all that is expected of the agent is, that he be in readiness to open the mails when they are delivered at the Chilian post-office. Though what follows in this and the next two paragraphs is somewhat of a digression, I think it as well to mention it here. The correspondence is brought on shore, either by the P. S. N. Co., or else by the captain of the port. In the latter case the mails are carried to the post-office by the boat's crew; but if, as is more commonly the case, the steamer sends the bags ashore, a curious scene ensues, which I know has aroused the anger of more than one newly-imported Briton who has happened to be a witness thereof. The sight of the boat approaching the shore is the signal for the band of loafers and idlers (which is always to be found on the mole) to rush, with one accord, to the landing, there to await the arrival of the mails. No sooner has the boat fairly touched land, than, without order or permission, the ruffians make a dash at the royal mails, and in a twinkling each bag has a bearer. When it is known that there are no more bags in the boat, there begins a regular scrimmage between the successful and unsuccessful candidates for mail carrying. During the conflict (which is, however, of short duration, the mole being very near the post-office) the bags change shoulders, or are thrown on the ground, and are immediately pounced upon by some one who has been watching his opportunity. This, be it borne in mind, takes place within two or three feet of the water's edge; that no bag has yet been thrown into the sea is really wonderful.

“The mails are delivered free of charge at

the post-office, and are then made over by the agent to the postmaster, when the responsibility of the former ceases.

“The letters are then weighed, and stamped with some figures which represent the charge for delivery. The next operation is to place them in their respective “boxes,” where they remain till they are claimed.* For this work the post-office claims the following rates: viz., for letters up to $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., 15 cents; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 25 cents; 1 oz., 45 cents; &c., &c. Thus, a letter sent from England for 1s. has often to pay an equivalent sum for its delivery. In the case of “samples per book post” the charge is still more egregious: it is no less than 45 cents per pound. I myself have had to pay that sum for a parcel from England, prepaid by four penny stamps! The large commercial houses established in this place have often to pay \$30 or \$40 every time a mail steamer comes in (about £20 per month) for the simple operation of placing the letters in their boxes. If delivered out of the post office they must pay 5 cents each. This applies to all letters, save those posted in the town itself.”]

STAMPS FOR THE PHILIPPINES, ISSUED IN 1847.

In a short paper in the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste* is related an extraordinary discovery; nothing less than a series of stamps for the Philippines, issued in 1847, has been brought to light by the enterprise of a correspondent of M. Moens. On the 14th of May, 1847, so he states, the then postmaster-general of the Philippines, Don Antonio Gutierrez y Pavia, proposed to the home government to issue four postage stamps for the prepayment of the island letters. The proposition was not accepted, because this system of prepayment had not then been adopted in the Peninsula. The postmaster, who no doubt did not expect to be met by a refusal, had already put the stamps in circulation, and they were used for some little time for the interinsular correspondence of Luzon and Manilla. The stamps are square, roughly engraved, and have the bust of Isabella II. in a frame,

* Mercantile letters, it may be supposed, have not long to wait—there is always some one waiting for them.

containing in its upper part the word INTERIOR, and the value in the lower. The impression is in colour on white laid paper, and unperforated.

$\frac{1}{2}$	real plata	green
2	" "	yellow
4	" "	blue
1	peso	rose

M. Moens adds that his correspondent gives him to expect that in a little while he will be able to send him the four stamps in question, and if so they will at once be engraved. Our *confrère* further calls attention to the fact that the postmaster's proposal was referred to by M. N. Rondot in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, but the latter omitted to say that the stamps had been in use.

This last observation constitutes at once our greatest reason for believing in the authenticity of the stamps, and our chief cause for being sceptical of their character. M. Moens' integrity is not called in question, and we do not know his correspondent, who may be describing the stamps from personal knowledge, or have obtained his information from the best of sources; or, on the other hand, may be the concoctor or the victim of a swindle. It behoves us to proceed with caution in a matter like the present. The fact that M. N. Rondot was aware of a proposition having been made by the Luzon postmaster, favours the hypothesis that stamps were really issued in the manner above stated. We, unfortunately, have not M. Rondot's article before us, and therefore cannot say whether his allusion was couched in general terms, or was explicit as to the date of the postmaster's letter, and the number of stamps which he thereby proposed to issue. In any case, however, looking at the suspicious side of the affair, there is no improbability in the supposition, that his article may have fallen under the notice of one or other of those ingenious contrivers of stamps whose machinations are the bane of unwary collectors; and in that case the fabrication of a likely-looking series would be very easy. We cannot quite suppress our surprise that the correspondent who had such precise information, not only of the colours and values of the four stamps, but also of the

date of a letter written by the postmaster in 1847, should have been unable to procure specimens to send over with his communication. Surely he could not have described the designs so fully without getting a sight of the stamps themselves, and, if so, to obtain the loan of them was but a step. Does not his letter appear to be artfully composed, with a view to facilitate the foisting on collectors of a spurious emission? Full particulars are first given, and specimens of the stamps are to follow, when the ground shall have been prepared. Well, we shall see how the affair turns out; meanwhile we are only doing our duty in calling attention to the doubts which are almost of necessity suggested by the announcement of M. Moens' correspondent, bearing in mind the great difference which exists between the meaning of two somewhat similar words—*discoveries* and *inventions*.

THE PENNY EXPRESS COMPANY STAMP.

BY CHARLES H. COSTER.

This stamp was first noticed in *The Philatelic Journal*, page 107; but beyond such points as can be gathered from the fac-simile therein given, and reproduced here, no information can be gathered from the notice in question.

Through the kind exertions of a western correspondent, I have learned that the "Penny Express Company" stamp was issued by the well-known firm of Langton & Co.,—the same firm that ran the Humboldt Express, Langton's Pioneer Express, &c.,—and was in use, during a very short time only, in Nevada territory. Unfortunately, I have not been able to determine its date of issue.

The stamp is of fine execution, and is apparently from a steel die. It is found printed in black and in blue—both on white paper.

The accompanying engraving will give a very fair idea of the general design; but it must be borne in mind that it has been purposely altered in one particular, so as to render counterfeiting more difficult.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

RUSSIAN LOCALS—Pavlograd (Ekaterinoslaw).—The first issued stamp for this district is known to collectors only by our list, in which (by an evident oversight) neither its colour nor its value is noted. No specimen has found its way across from Russia, and now the chance of our making closer acquaintance with its design is diminished by its withdrawal from circulation. The description, which we repeat for clearness sake, is as follows:—

- (1). Arms in centre.
- (2). Star above and numeral below the arms.
- (3). Inscription in surrounding oval frame.
- (4). Roman figure of value in angles of outer octagonal frame of crossed waved lines.

The annexed engraving is a representation of the second type, which has just been issued. It is evidently copied, in its general outline, from the first type. The arms and the inscription are in the same position, and the octagonal outer frame, with ground of crossed waved lines, is repeated. The points of difference are the insertion of a numeral above the arms, in place of the star, and the substitution of Arabic for Roman numerals in the angles. The colour of the new comer is a dark dull blue. M. Moens says that there is an orthographical fault in the inscription, *Madka* being written for *Mapka*; if so it has not been repeated in the engraving, for the latter clearly shows *Mapka*.

Perejaslav (Poltava).—The local authorities in the Poltava government have apparently no strong leanings in favour of art, to judge by the annexed design, which is common to the districts of *Perejaslav* and *Peerjatin*, subject only to the change of name. Our engraving is that of *Perejaslav*; but



"Caesar and Pompey," it appears, are so much alike that it might stand for both districts.

The stamp is printed in black on chamois; value 3 kop. The *Peerjatin* stamp, which has not yet come over, but which figures in our July list, is of the same value, and is printed in scarlet.

Schlusselfurg.—It is stated that the rural post for this district has long since ceased to exist, and the green 5 kop. stamp is, consequently, no longer to be had.

A letter published in *The American Journal of Philately* gives the correct orthography of several local-issuing districts. Thus *Schopeen* becomes *Skopin*; *Kolomna*, *Kalomna*; *Borovitchi*, *Borowitschi*; and *Bronnitszi*, *Brownitzi*. We fear it will be no easy matter to obtain the correct spelling of the names of all the different districts.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The handsome three-halfpenny envelope design, after remaining ten years an essay, has at length made its appearance as a stamp for public use, though its circulation will, unfortunately, be but limited, as it can only be obtained by ordering direct, and in quantities, from Somerset House. The impressions are from the original die, but in pale rose-pink, which is not so effective a tint as that of the old essay. *The Philatelist* describes the shape of the envelopes it had received, and also the device on the flap; but these details are, in the present instance, valueless, since the stamps are struck at Somerset House on envelopes furnished by the applicants, and each batch may be on different-sized envelopes. Our contemporary says that on making inquiries many months since as to the likelihood of an emission of three-halfpenny envelopes, he was given to understand that the die had been mislaid or destroyed, and he conjectures it must since have turned up. We incline to think that so useful a value must ere long be issued for general use, like the penny envelope.

NEW GRANADA—Cundinamarca.—In the discovery of the stamps of the sovereign states of the Colombian republic, it seems to be the rule that the last should come first and the first last. Thus it happens that the two

primitive designs here figured have only just turned up, and they are stated to have been in use four months before the issue already known made its appearance.

The illustrations here given—which have been courteously lent by the proprietors of



The Philatelist—are not copied from the stamps themselves, and it is not pretended that they are more than “approximate portraits” from tracings of the same; they are, however, sufficiently accurate to show the general design. They are printed in black on colour; the 5 c. on greenish blue, and the 10 c. on pink. Dr. Magnus, in his new journal, expresses his doubts of their authenticity.

LIVONIA.—We have received a stamp purporting to be issued for Livonia, of which we will give an illustration in our next number. The central device consists of a mailed arm grasping a sword, and springing from what may be a rock. This is in an oval, inscribed BRIEFMARKE WENDENSCHEN KREISES in white letters, and the oval itself has a broad white exterior rim. The rest of the stamp is filled with a ground pattern of horizontal pearls and lines, the four angles bearing a small white star. The stamp is printed in two colours, deep green and scarlet. The oval is green, as is also the outline of the arm; the solid ground of the centre and all the design outside the oval is in scarlet. It is printed on white paper, gummed, and perf. 14. We have no information of its value, and are rather puzzled at the change in the armorial device of the province. On the older stamp is figured a griffin rampant.

PHILIPPINES.—The concluding number of the defunct *Timbrophile*, contains the following account of a newly-discovered stamp, value 3 cents. A correspondent sends us a rather curious stamp not hitherto noticed, of

which we give the description. It is a blue 3 cuartos. Above it is inscribed CORREOS 1854-55, below FRANCO 3 c^{as}. In the centre, effigy to the right in a pearled oval, interrupted above and below, hence 25 pearls on the right, 24 on the left. It is a copy of the 1853 Spanish type, and bears the “gridiron” obliteration common to Cuba and Luzon. The impression was made by means of an engraving lithographically transferred. The colour is a greenish blue. We think that it is but another essay, and not a stamp which has seen service. Still, it is as well to put this stamp by the side of the lithographed 5 c. of 1853-4 (which was not known until 1865), and the 10 c. of the same type (mentioned by M. N. Rondot, which no one else has met with up to the present time), and nothing would surprise us less than the discovery that this stamp is a “find,” like the 27 paras of Moldavia and others.

FRENCH COLONIES.—We owe to the new Parisian journal, *La Gazette des Timbres*, the intelligence that the eagle series for colonial use was suppressed some time since, and unperforated supplies of the home stamps sent out, composed of the following values:

Empire,	5 c.	unlaureated.
”	1 ”	laureated.
”	30 ”	”
”	80 ”	”
Republic,	10 ”	bistre.
”	20 ”	blue.
”	40 ”	orange.

Our contemporary does not say whether the stamps of the republic are of the lithographed or the engraved type; but as the copies we have seen are engraved, inexperienced collectors must take care not to confound them with the 1848 issues. It is stated that the above stamps were first received back on colonial letters on the 25th of December last.

GUADALAJARA.—The same journal publishes a letter from its contributor Mons. “Albis,” in which the latter states that he has just heard from Mexico that the provisional Guadalajara were at first employed without the authority of the president of the republic, Don Juarez, who commenced an action, and obtained a judgment, in the supreme court of

Mexico against the then postmaster, Don Guadalupe Montenegro, for having had the stamps struck without permission.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Our Birmingham contemporary has received from a correspondent two unperforated copies of the 5 groschen stamps, of the small eagle type, issued in January, postmarked *Leutersdorf, Jun. 16*, which probably came from a sheet accidentally sent out unperforated by the Berlin authorities.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Our last-quoted *confrère* has received from the postmaster of the island specimens of all the values in use at the end of last month, and there being no 10 cents amongst them, he argues that that value does not exist, *ergo*, M. Moens, who gave an engraving of what we must now suppose to be an imposture, has been victimised. *The Philatelic Journal* also states that the stock of the obsolete penny is being utilised, the stamps being surcharged 2 CENTS.

JAPAN.—*The American Journal of Philately* gives the following as the values of the new perforated set :

1½	tenpoes	brown.
2	„	blue.
3	„	vermilion.
7½	„	green.

They are printed in sheets of forty.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—It is stated in *Le Timbre-Poste* that the current 5 c. has been temporarily replaced by the same value of the 1864 type.

SWEDEN.—It is said that the series will be completed by the issue of two more values—the 9 and 17 öre.

FORGERY OF THE NEW 4 c. GREEN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

WE have to warn all our readers—more experienced collectors, equally with beginners—against a most dangerous forgery of the above-mentioned stamp, in which the design, in all its principal points, is most carefully imitated, and there is so slight a difference in shade as to render comparison with a genuine stamp necessary for detection. The most noticeable points of variation between the forgery and the genuine stamp are as follows:—

GENUINE.

- 1.—The crown of the head of the portrait does not touch the frame. There is a plainly visible space between it and the frame, along the whole length.
- 2.—The square disks in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, are a trifle higher than the band running between them, inscribed with the value.
- 3.—There is a clear space between the letter o in the word POSTAGE, on the first line of the inscription, and the letter E of PRINCE in the second line.
- 4.—There is a vertical line of fine dots outside the exterior row of fine horizontal lines which forms part of the ground on the right-hand side. In other words, each one of these horizontal lines is succeeded by a dot.

FORGED.

- 1.—The crown of the head touches the frame along a certain distance, and in a direct line under the letters DW of the word EDWARD in the inscription in the upper margin.
- 2.—The square disks in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, do *not* project above the intervening band, inscribed with the value.
- 3.—The letter o in the word POSTAGE, in the first line of the inscription, touches the letter E of PRINCE on the second line.
- 4.—The line of dots, referred to on the other side, is absent.

We could go on multiplying the distinctive characteristics, but we have been careful to mention only those positive differences whereby the forgery can be at once detected by itself, without the necessity for comparison with a genuine specimen.

These dangerous counterfeits are also sold obliterated, and the false postmarks have not been applied—as is usually the case with forgeries—in such a manner as to leave the best part of the stamp clean, but are struck over the stamps with apparently official carelessness, and thus are all the more deceptive. The genuine cancelling mark consists of a transverse oval, formed of ten horizontal bars, of which the top and bottom ones are curved, so as to complete the oval. The forged mark consists of an irregularly shaped transverse oblong, formed of two horizontal lines of long, and three of short unshapen patches. They are sold three or four together, stuck on paper, and have every appearance of having been cut from an envelope. The unused forgeries are sold in sheets of 100, at fourpence each specimen.

We are glad to learn, from our Birming-

ham contemporary, that the matter has been communicated to the proper authorities, and that the home agents of the colonial post-office have been instructed to take such action in the case as will bring the offenders to justice. We shall rejoice if they get their deserts, and we have no doubt our readers will be equally glad; meanwhile, as these spurious wares have been launched into circulation, it will be well to take every precaution, to prevent their being imposed on collectors.

WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THIS question suggested itself to the writer's mind on reading the following paragraph of the article explanatory of the scope of Mr. Pemberton's forthcoming catalogue, which appeared in a recent number of *The Philatelic Journal*.

We confine ourselves strictly to stamps which prepay postage and that are sold to the public, thus totally ignoring *chiffres-taxe* and such like rubbish for unpaid and returned letters, which everyone collects because they are adhesive usually, and tolerable-looking occasionally. What we want is consistency, and not needlessly to multiply species in face of the outcry raised by those who object to all varieties. And let us ask, where is the consistency of cataloguing stamps for unpaid letters, or stamps or envelopes for letters returned to the sender? The latter are the more sensible, for they do carry the returned letter free. Such stamps as the *Baden Landpost*, *Hanover Bestellgeld-frei*, and others, representing an extra tax or fee for delivery, we certainly catalogue as quite within the province of our intentions.

From these remarks, which break fresh ground, it will be seen that the answer to the inquiry—What is a postage stamp?—cannot be without interest.

The fact is, that collecting in its infancy was a pursuit conducted in such an utterly unscientific way, that many adhesives then secured recognition as postage stamps, which, if a code of rules for the guidance of collectors were now being laid down, would be rigorously excluded. Anything which emanated from a post-office, or was in the least degree connected with it, was seized on with an indiscriminate ardour, and incorporated with the orthodox emissions of a country. This weakness for things postal was fostered by the early catalogue makers, and is still but too frequently manifested. Thus it has often occurred that some

particular impression or label belonging to a previously unrecognised class, and possessing, perchance, a special claim to notice, has been favourably referred to by one or other of the magazines, and the attention thus paid to it has led to a demand, by the possessor of some heterogeneous collection, for the admission of the whole species, on the ground that they all do the same duty. The vague uncertainty thus introduced, and the unrestrained elasticity of construction which results from it, combine to show that the time has arrived for establishing a clear definition of the term postage stamp.

The simplest answer to the query which heads these remarks is, that a postage stamp is a stamp that pays postage. A postage stamp, in other words, is the conventional sign adopted to evidence the payment of a sum of money to secure the carriage of a letter or paper by the post-office to a given destination. Understood thus as an *evidence of prepayment*, the official, returned letter, and unpaid letter labels are *not* postage stamps.

Let us take first the OFFICIAL stamps. No payment is made when they are attached to, or struck on the letters which bear them. They do not represent postage, but *exemption from postage*. The impressed stamps are not obliterated. They are hardly more than office seals. In our own country, they serve to show from what department a letter emanates, but the signature which accompanies them really contains the franking power. In point of fact, government communications enjoy the privilege of being carried free of any charge whatever; and the marks they may bear, which merely indicate that they are government communications, cannot be considered as being, in any sense of the word, postage stamps. The adhesives, such as the Danish, the colonial "Service" stamps, &c., when we come to look the matter fairly in the face, are not entitled to more consideration than the handstamped impressions. They have a facial value, but, as I understand it, it is purely nominal and fictitious. They are issued, probably, for the purpose of checking the weight and number of official letters and documents sent through the post, and perhaps also to

prevent the abuse of the franking privilege by the government *employés*, who might be tempted to make free use of an office hand-stamp, but who are obliged to render a strict account of the employment of the adhesive labels dealt out to them. Such being the case, they should in strictness be excluded: that they are likely to be is another matter. The handstamps are very uninteresting objects for collection; and although the attempt has been made to introduce and classify them by a well-known writer, whose opinions no one respects more than I do, yet it is very evident that they will never be generally accepted. With the adhesives it is a different affair. The Spanish official have been included in every catalogue and prepared album that has been published. The Danish are generally admired, and the colonial Service stamps have found a place in many collections. It is, perhaps, too much to ask philatelists to discard these stamps altogether, but ought they not to be kept quite apart from the postage stamps proper?

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.—Among these are numbered the French *chiffres-taxe*, the Italian *Segna-tasse*, &c., &c. Judged literally by the standard we have set up at the commencement, these are not postage stamps, for so far from being evidences of prepayment, they are proofs of *non-payment*; and most of them represent, not merely the postage of the letter to which they are attached, but also a fine for the sender's negligence. But, it may be urged, in arrest of judgment, they are put on in the post-office, and thus constitute the official certificate to the receiver that the letter-carrier is authorised to claim the amount which is "figured" on them. In fact, though these stamps do not prepay, they, nevertheless, represent the *postage*; and in the countries in which they are in use, they form the conventional sign of postage *due*. They are the admissible corollary of postage stamps proper; the public, when it wishes to employ the services of the post-office, for convenience sake puts a label of a given value on a letter, and the office is then bound to carry the letter; if the office conveys an unpaid letter, for convenience sake it puts on a label representing the charge for carriage,

and the receiver is obliged to pay if he want his letter. It may be paradoxically put, that although you cannot *buy* an unpaid letter stamp, you have to pay for it, and payment is of "the essence of the contract." For these reasons, I think that *chiffre-taxe* stamps are fairly collectable; and Mr. Pemberton himself must surely modify his decision to include in the body of his forthcoming catalogue only stamps sold to the public, unless he is prepared to reject the "unpaid letter" series of Turkey, which is used for correspondence from localities where no postal agencies have as yet been established.

RETURNED LETTER STAMPS appear to me to be totally unworthy of collection. A distinction must be drawn between stamps which, in one sense or another, represent postage, and merely *postal* stamps, such as the returned letter labels. Their apposition to a letter gives rise to no payment at either end, and as in the case of the official labels, they in reality prove only *exemption* from postage. The return of an undelivered letter is a piece of courtesy on the part of the post-office, unless, indeed, it be considered that the ordinary postage stamp, attached on the departure of the letter, not only pays the carriage to destination, but also the return carriage in case of non-delivery. A returned letter label in any case is a thing with which the public have nothing whatever to do; it simply forms part of the internal organization of the postal service. We have no more need to concern ourselves with it, than we have to pay attention to the seals wherewith the mailbags are fastened up; and the assumed necessity for collecting them, has, I am inclined to believe, been felt to be irksome by many philatelists.

REGISTRATION and TOO-LATE STAMPS.—How far can these be considered collectable? They, like the returned letter labels, are portions of the internal economy of the post-office. In this country, the word REGISTERED is struck on the letter with a handstamp, and the payment of an extra penny stamp, to cover the fine for late postage is—in London, at any rate—indicated by the handstamp L. 1 or L. 2, as the case may

be. We do not collect these handstruck impressions; ought we to collect the adhesive Victorian "Registered" and "Too-late" labels, the Trinidad "Too late," the United States "Registered," &c.? The class is not a numerous one, and, of the two kinds, one represents a specially guaranteed mode of transmission, the other an earlier despatch. These advantages are prepaid. Shall we then, for once, be inconsistent, and, whilst collecting the labels, the true offshoot of the cheap postal system, reject the uninteresting handstamped words? I leave it to my readers to answer.

NEWSPAPER IMPRESSED STAMPS. — These are a troublesome class of stamps, which have occasionally formed the subjects of more or less incomplete lists, and whose claims have been repeatedly urged by the few—shall we say happy?—possessors of collections of them. My own impression is that they are not deserving of recognition. They are the relics of an obsolete system. They were not sold to the public, nor struck on the papers by postal officials. They were the means used of collecting an item in the Inland Revenue, and they lost any postal character they might have possessed fifteen days after the date of emission. I apprehend that most collectors would object to their being raked up from their obscurity and forced on them, under the pretext that they were postage stamps.

Permit me, in conclusion, to invite my readers' serious attention to the subject, for it will bear consideration; and if from the discussion some general rule, acceptable to the majority, can be established, as to the classes of stamps which are within, and those which are without the limits, my object in drawing attention to the matter will have been gained.

HOW DR. MAGNUS BECAME A STAMP COLLECTOR. — Ten years ago my eldest son, then an urchin nine years of age, had brought home from school a score of ragged stamps—English, Belgian, Dutch, German, and Italian—and made comical efforts to classify them. A few Spanish and French republic stamps, which we hunted up from our letters, set the seal on the partnership—Magnus, father and son—and all our endeavours tended to swell the number of stamps which filled the album. Later on, the well-known fickleness of children left me alone at the head of the collection. It was from that day that I seriously pursued the study.—*La Gazette des Timbres*.

THE FIJI ISLANDS IN SEARCH OF A PROTECTOR.

THERE is something almost touching in the friendless position of the Fiji Islands at the present time. They have been hawked about most persistently from one great power to another, and the answer to each and every application has been in effect, "No child of mine." England treated the idea of a protectorate with scorn; America calculated that she had enough to do with her own Indians; the Australian colonies, which are deeply interested in the establishment of a responsible government in this particular group, are quite unable to do anything except to recommend Great Britain to "annex" it; the only polite answer was obtained from Prince Bismarck, of all people in the world. Nearly eighteen months ago, in reply to a numerous signed petition, requesting that the Fiji Islands should be placed under the Prussian flag, he wrote a civil letter with his own hand to the leading merchant in Fiji—a North German—and expressed his regret that the state of affairs in Europe prevented him from giving attention to Fiji just then, but he hinted that no long time might elapse ere Prussia would be at liberty to act in the South Seas.—*Pall-Mall Gazette*.

[In our own parliament, recently, a question was put to the government as to its intention with regard to the Fijian administration, and its reply was that it would recognise as *de facto* in power the council of white men at Levuka over such islands as its sway might extend.—ED.]

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

La Gazette des Timbres. Paris: Pierre Mahé.

THE apparition of this journal will be heartily welcomed by philatelists of every shade of opinion. Its publication commences under the most favourable auspices. It succeeds the well-known *Timbrophile*, whose prestige it inherits, and under the direction of that prince of philatelists—Dr. Magnus—its success is certain.

The first number is interesting, not so much from the information it contains, as for the programme with which it opens, entitled "Our Aim," and written in that attractive style of which the learned editor

is so peculiarly master. In a few well-chosen sentences Dr. Magnus sketches the rise of philately and the publication of the first magazines in England, Belgium, and Germany, then touches on the issue of the first French journal, *Le Collectionneur*, of M. Maury, which owed its position to the carefully written articles of that once famous collector, M. Herpin, and fell rapidly away when he ceased to contribute. The career of *Le Timbrophile* next comes under notice, and the causes which interfered with its publication,—viz., the war, and the editor's numerous occupations—are briefly dwelt on; and then, in natural sequence, follows the explanation of the aim of *Le Timbrophile's* successor. That it includes the publication of instructive articles and monographs we need hardly say, but it is worthy of special notice that Dr. Magnus contemplates writing, under the title of "The Little Gazette" a series of "Papers for Beginners" similar in character and intention to those which are being published in these pages. We are glad to see the utility of such articles thus emphatically recognised, and we shall look forward with interest to the promised contributions. In the course of his *exposé* the learned editor intimates his intention of treating of fiscal and telegraph stamps, as well as of postal emissions; but with regard to the fiscals, he will notice only the adhesives, putting aside the impressed stamps until public opinion be in favour of their being studied. We regret that Dr. Magnus should have decided in favour of the admission of even adhesive fiscals. That he will analyse and chronicle them with his usual ability we do not doubt, but we question very much if any considerable section of his readers will follow him.

Among the contents of the new journal instalments of a descriptive catalogue will find place. This catalogue will comprehend a full description of all the types, followed by an enumeration of the sub-types and varieties, and of the reprints. Official essays will be separately treated.

After the introductory article comes the first chapter of "La Petite Gazette," or rather its preface, in the shape of a letter from Dr. Magnus to his nephew, entitled "What one

may learn in Collecting Stamps." To this succeeds the "Chronicle," which occupies twelve pages, and is, in fact, a *résumé* of the emissions since the beginning of the year. In running through it we notice that Dr. Magnus confirms our opinion that both the Finnish cards are engraved. *Per contra*, the learned doctor gives his vote in favour of the authenticity of the Goa stamps, against which, in presence of the accumulating proof of genuineness, we must now withdraw our own objections. Reference is made to the telegraph card of this country, and the whole of the notice printed on the back is quoted. The paragraphs treating of this card have been copied verbatim into the official journal of the republic, with due acknowledgment of the source—an honour, probably, unexpected by their writer.

The number closes with a lengthy but useful notice to subscribers respecting the communication of novelties, in which senders of new emissions of private offices are requested to accompany the specimens with proofs of authenticity, in the shape of newspaper articles, prospectuses, or other documents.

This first number runs to twenty-four pages in all, in consequence of the length of the "Chronicle," but the ordinary contents will be sixteen pages. In size it is an imperial octavo. The typographical arrangements are good, but we cannot say much for the frontispiece, which strikes us as being a very inartistic composition.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CINGALESE CURRENCY.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In your magazine for May you speak, under the heading of "Ceylon," of "the new Cingalese dollar," &c. We have no dollar here. Our standard is the *rupee*, the same as in India, and is worth all through India and Ceylon exactly two shillings. In exchange between England the value, of course, varies according to condition of money-market. In Ceylon we have a decimal division of the rupee into cents, whilst in India their division is into annas and pies.

The cent, therefore, is not equal to the English farthing, but in postal matters the government have reckoned it so, thus conferring a slight postal boon upon the Ceylon public, rather than, by adhering to the exact previous rates, have stamps expressed in cents and fractions, which would have been necessary.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours obediently.

Colombo.

X. X.

THE "PENNY POST" MARKS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the penny posts which I brought under your notice in my last letter, I beg to state that the dates of two of them in my possession are February 16th, 1830, and July 3rd, 1830. In my opinion there were small offices in the suburbs of large cities, which, on payment of a penny, forwarded letters to the metropolis; these offices also existed in the towns themselves, for in Dublin I have covers impressed with the names of *streets*. Your correspondent, J. H. H., has not stated whether he possesses any covers stamped with the names of *persons*,—as "BOLLON'S PENNY POST;" and I should be inclined to think that he has spoiled his specimens by separating the *stamp* from the *cover*. If the Americans could only find such things as these "down South," I have no doubt that many a letter would be written by enterprising dealers to suburban postmasters, to inquire of them what they knew about the new comers.

I remain, Sir,

Yours truly,

Dublin.

M. H. C.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for May, page 74, you refer to some old marks found by a correspondent on ancient letters, and as you desire some further information, the few I enclose may assist you as regards dates.

I have a collection of about 1000 varieties of postmarks, which I made several years ago; and among them I have thirty-six varieties of the *Penny Post*, in black, red, and blue, the oldest being a Southampton one, dated 29 May, 1827 (blue ink.) I have always been at a loss to comprehend these, as I understood that the penny post began in 1840. Likewise thirty-two 1d. PAID, and two 2d. PAID. I have one OKEHAMPTON, 6d. CLAUSE POST, being the only one I have ever seen, and should like to know what "Clause Post" means. I have only three varieties of Sunday marks, which are rather curious. The one marked Oc. 7. 89, means October 7, 1789. Can you inform me the meaning of the small triangle in the tracing of August 6, 1850? and a similar one by itself you will observe on an official letter from the India Office. I also send two *Penny Posts*—Southampton and Milbrook—on one paper, which might assist to an explanation. Milbrook is about two miles from Southampton. As it is the only one I have saved entire, I should like it returned. My oldest postmark is of the year 1740.

I also send tracings of three Swiss marks I found on letters of about 1864. Should you consider them as postage stamps? You will observe it seems as a frankmark of 1 f. and 78 c.

The Salisbury postmark, as shown in the tracing, is the largest I have met with.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

Lyminster.

J H.

[The tracings and specimens sent by our correspondent are of much interest. The Okehampton one is composed of a transverse oblong, with OKEHAMPTON on the first line and 6d. CLAUSE POST on the second. What a "clause post" could have been we are at a loss to conjecture. The other most noticeable impressions are the DRUMMOND ST., 2d. PAID, and KENSINGTON 2 PY. PAID, which indicate the existence of a twopenny post, peculiar, probably, to London. The Swiss marks consist of (1) a triangle with a bar across the middle, 1 f. above, and 1 f. 78 c. below. (2) An oblong rectangle, with similarly disposed abbreviations, and (3) a small oblong inscribed B. 6 K. These marks are similar to those found on French letters, and already noticed in these pages. We should certainly hold them over, pending explanations of their use. We cannot give our correspondent any information as to the meaning of the triangle.—Ed.]

THE CHILIAN ENVELOPES AND POST CARDS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—On the first page of *The Philatelist* for May there is an engraving intended to give an approximate idea of the design of the Chilean envelopes; it is also understood that the stamp is the work of a native artist.

As I have as yet seen or heard nothing of the envelopes in question, I wrote to the postmaster-general, and received in answer the assurance that the envelopes had not yet been received, and that he had not seen and could give no account of the stamp, the engraving of which I described to him.

I believe, therefore, that I am not far wrong in saying that the design is the production of some "foreign" artist, perhaps even of the gentleman who, some time ago, on his own account, issued envelopes for the Argentine republic; in both cases the design of the adhesive has been closely copied.

I would here warn collectors, too, against accepting Chilean post cards without the corresponding adhesives. *The Philatelist*, in describing them, says, that, "in common with the new Russian post card, this emission has the disqualification of bearing no impressed stamp." One thing, however, they have *not* in common, viz., the *adhesive* stamp. If I mistake not, the Russian card is sold *without* the stamp; ours, never. Like the post cards of most countries, these are sold at facial value—2 c. and 5 c., respectively.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours obediently,

L. W. M

Valparaiso.

THE PETERSBURG AND PLEASANT SHADE STAMPS—MR. COSTER'S REPLY TO MR. PEMBERTON.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The July number of *The Philatelist* is just to hand, and in it Mr. Pemberton's "review" of my letter in the July number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, on the subject of the Petersburg stamp.

I had at first intended not to take any notice of the review in question, which, permit me to say, is written in a style entirely unworthy of any occupant of an editorial chair. However, "drowning men clutch at straws," and I suppose that Mr. Pemberton saw no other way to keep himself from sinking. Mr. Pemberton's review is, in fact, one continued slander, with scarcely a single accurate assertion, from beginning to end. This is very plain language, but it is, nevertheless, quite warranted by the circumstances of the case.

Setting aside all his personal abuse, let me quote, verbatim, his "review" of my letter, above referred to. Mr. P. says—

"We ourselves, as the writer and investigator of the subject, are bound to confess that we do not believe that there is one atom of truthful fact in the letter mentioned. The establishment of the existence of Mr. Upchurch rests solely with a third and probably supposititious person, in whom we do not believe. Mr. Coster, though undoubtedly a collector of considerable merit, has been again hoodwinked, our writings have had the usual effect.*** Let us but give our opinion—the result of really careful investigation—and our American cousins can then find out facts by the dozen, or else get some one of unblemished

moral character to write them for them at so much per foot.*** What we wrote concerning the Petersburg was the result of careful analysis, and we are not disposed to alter one single word of our statements."

This is very fine language, and quite worthy of its talented author, but it seems to me that it is the poorest kind of argument; for it will be observed that, although he indulges in plenty of abuse, *he does not even attempt to show a single point in which my proofs are defective.* He does not believe in Mr. Young or Mr. Upchurch's existence. It is to be regretted that Mr. Pemberton should be so incredulous, but as I do not suppose that either of the gentlemen in question would feel disposed to go to Europe to prove to Mr. P. their veritable being, I will endeavour to prove it by other means.

First.—I beg to refer Mr. Pemberton to any United States business register or directory. He will find therein "W. C. Upchurch, Raleigh, N. C.," and "R. A. Young & Bro., Petersburg, Va." Then, if he will refer to the co-partnership directory, he will find that Jno. D. Young, Esq., is one of the firm of R. A. Young & Bro.

Second.—I am to day sending to the editor of this magazine a three-cents stamped envelope of the present issue, bearing the return request of Messrs. R. A. Young & Bro. Also a letter from Mr. Young, written on paper bearing Messrs. R. A. Young and Bro.'s printed business heading. I send this letter so that the writing therein may be compared with the writing on the envelope. I also send Mr. Young's visiting-card. Should the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* find all these "documents" in order, perhaps he will oblige me with a note at the bottom of this letter, so stating.

The sentence about "getting some one to write facts by the foot" is too supremely ridiculous to take any further notice of.

In regard to my being "*again* hoodwinked," I desire to know (supposing even that I were in error in the present instance, which I certainly am not) to what *previous* occasion Mr. Pemberton refers, when he uses the word "*again*." I am happy to say that I have never made any assertion in any stamp magazine that I am not able to sustain by abundant proofs; and I must therefore call on Mr. Pemberton to "rise to explain."

As to the "Pleasant Shade," we have but to compare what Mr. Pemberton says, on pp. 9, 60, 63, 68, 117, and 118 of his infallible journal, with what he says on p. 116, and we are forced to exclaim—"Consistency, thou art a jewel" (N.B.—Not, however, in the possession of Mr. P.). I have shown (in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for August) that this stamp does exist as a genuine issue, and need add nothing further thereto, except that the name of "Pleasant Shade" is found in all the post-office directories published prior to the war, but that since then the name of the post-office has been changed. As to whether those that have been offered to Mr. Pemberton in England are genuine or not, I cannot say, unless he will send me one to compare with a *genuine* copy, to which I have access.

It certainly is to be sincerely regretted that unprincipled parties have made the scarcity of known genuine specimens of Confederate provisionals the means of endless swindling; but unless Mr. Pemberton can learn to discriminate between the good and the bad, he had better not attempt to elucidate matters, but rather should apply to persons better posted than himself.

In conclusion, let me correct an apparently slight but really important error in my letter in your July number, which arose through a mistake on my part in reading Mr. J. D. Young's letter. Speaking of the envelope bearing Messrs. Young's imprint, I said it was recognized as the

writing of one of the partners of "Ralf Bros." This should read "R. A. Young & Bro."

Trusting that you will excuse my occupying so much of your valuable space with a subject concerning which Mr. Pemberton stands almost, if not entirely, alone in his opinions, I feel tempted to close by repeating, for his special benefit, the familiar rhyme:—

"A man convinced against his will,
Is of the same opinion still."

Yours very truly,

New York.

CHARLES H. COSTER.

[The letter sent by our correspondent is signed "J. D. Young," and is in the same handwriting as the address on the envelope. Both letter and envelope bear Messrs. Young's imprint. The letter is dated from Petersburg, Va., 22nd May, 1872, and contains most of the information respecting the Petersburg stamp which was embodied in Mr. Coster's first letter. At the close of the letter Mr. Young says, "Let me assure you that I do not consider giving such information as I can about this a trouble, rather a pleasure. As I before stated, I once had a small collection, and know how to value such things." The visiting-card simply bears the imprint, "John D. Young," and below "Petersburg, Va."—*h.b.*]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. A. F., Victoria.—1. The Mecklenburg and Brunswick quartett should be collected entire, but a single quarter might be put by the side of the entire stamp, to illustrate its use.—2 and 3. The 1½ schilling stamp, with value in centre of a wreath, is one of the provisional Holstein stamps issued by the Prussians during the Danish war; and the 1½ schg. Schleswig belongs to the same epoch.—4. The profile on the Java stamps is that of the king of Holland.

E. B., St. Albans.—Your 30 c. Belgian is certainly of a paler shade than ordinary—more buff than amber; it comes, probably, from stock recently printed, and, as a colour-variety, is worthy of collection.

A COLLECTOR OF STAMPS, Norbiton, writes to express his concurrence in the opinions as to the advisability of collecting cut envelopes, advocated in a letter quoted in the article entitled "The Gordian Knot of Stamp-Collecting," which appeared in our June number.

A. S. S., Wokingham.—We are aware that the circulation of most of the French imperial stamps has exceeded that of the Republican issue; nevertheless, we are obliged for your communication.

F. R., New York.—We beg to thank you for your courtesy in sending us a specimen of the perforated Japanese—the first we had seen. It was duly noticed in our last.

P. J. A., Inverness.—The list of philatelic publications alluded to on page 182 of our last volume, was published in the October number of *The American Journal of Philately*.

W. G. B., London.—The fact that you received a perforated 4 c. French (head of Liberty) on the 26th *June*, does not militate against the correctness of a statement made by us in *April*, to the effect that no one had then seen such a stamp. In fact, the perforated 4 c. was issued in June, and is not a new edition of the Bordeaux type, but an engraved copy of the design of the latter.

F. H. H., Kew.—The labels from France, printed in black on yellow, orange, and red paper, bearing the profile of a man in the centre, and inscribed *TNAT SNOG LIBEMUD*, must be unmitigated humbugs.

L. W. M., Valparaiso.—The inaccuracy of the statement with reference to the abstention from using the imperial stamps during the siege of Paris, has already been admitted.—Our English postage stamps can still be cashed at the post-office against 2½ per cent discount.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—
*Falkland Islands—Geneva—Austria—Denmark—
 Wurtemberg—French Colonies—Sandwich Islands—
 New Brunswick.*]

La Gazette des Timbres.—The opening number was reviewed in our last impression; the notice of the second number of a journal which takes an honoured place among "Our Contemporaries" finds place here.

The latter opens with the first instalment of the promised "Notes on the Methodical Formation of a Collection," which will, we do not doubt, prove of much value, for, as its author remarks, "Up to the present time no one has settled, or at any rate demonstrated, the principles which should govern the formation of a collection of stamps. Everyone has been guided by his own taste and fancy. No doubt each one can extend or restrict his collection according to his idea or his personal resources; it is not less true that the formation and classification may be submitted to a defined method. What distinctions should characterise a collection of this kind? To what categories of stamps can it apply? And of each category what are the stamps which the collection should contain, to be complete? On the other hand, what are the stamps which should be excluded, in order that it may not lose its *spécialité*?" These questions go to the root of the matter, and from the replies which they will receive, and the discussion by which they will be followed—if such replies do not meet with general acceptance—will, we trust, result the establishment of such exact and recognised definitions as will subject stamp-collecting to a salutary code of laws. We will not attempt to forestall the discussion by answering any of these questions ourselves, but we may remark that, faithful to the title of the journal and of the article itself, its author treats not of postage stamps in particular, but of all kinds of stamps—postage, telegraph, and fiscal—in general. With the observations treating of fiscal stamps we have nothing to do; but the rules which should govern collecting as they apply to all stamps, whatever their employment, will, *à fortiori*, apply to the collection of our own *protégés*—postage stamps.

The author, with strict regard to logic, opens his article with a definition of the word stamp, and argues that the service performed by a stamp, namely, the payment to the state of a charge or duty, and not the fact of its being adhesive or impressed, should decide its acceptance or exclusion. He then proceeds to the division of stamps into two grand classes or categories—I. The fiscal stamps, which represent the payment of a tax or duty; and—II. The postage and telegraph stamps, wherewith payment is made to the state for services rendered by it. The author's predilections are strongly in favour of the collection of fiscals, and are shown by his putting them in the first class, for no reason that we can imagine other than priority of invention. He discusses, with evident pleasure, the circumstances connected with their emission, and expresses his regret that up to the present time they have not been properly catalogued, whilst the smallest details connected with postage stamps have been carefully described. In further development of his objection, he adds the following foot-note, the argument in which deserves attention:—

"Not only have the secondary varieties been described, which have but little value for the history of stamps, but, which yet might merit notice as affecting the partial emission of a given type (the Oldenburg stamp, with error *Oldeiburg*; stamps of Modena and Parma, with sundry errors, &c.), but other varieties have also been mentioned which are totally insignificant, such as those which result from an *isolated* typographical accident (as, for instance, when two envelopes with inscription having passed under the press at the same time, one of them has received an uncoloured impression from the die). It would, perhaps, be advisable to disengage the already minute details in the study of stamps from these complications which offer no real interest."

In the "Little" or "Minor Gazette," Doctor Magnus discourses on "what may be included in a limited collection." After referring to the existence of the different classes of stamps mentioned above, he recommends the young collector to confine his attention to postage stamps, and further

counsels beginners to a complete abstention from the study of perforations, of varieties of shade, and of descriptions of paper, but he engages them to accept, though with caution, the issues of private offices.

The *Chronicle* and the first instalment of the *Catologue Raisonné* complete the number. In the latter article the list of the Austrian stamps is commenced, and the names of the colours which should be collected by beginners are printed in a thick salient type.

The third number of this journal reaches us at the moment of going to press, and we have only space for a hasty survey of its contents. It opens with a notice of the Falkland Islands, and their solitary hand-struck impression; which, as it is probably made on the envelope after payment of the postal rate, Dr. Magnus considers to be nothing more than a simple postmark.

In the continuation of the "Memoir on the Methodical Formation of a Collection," the author describes the various species of postage stamps, recommends the acceptance of unstamped post cards, and adds, that as an aid to study and verification, it is well to add to the collection:—1. Stamps prepared by a postal administration, but not issued in consequence of some change, political or otherwise. 2. Official reprints, which however, he admits have scientifically no intrinsic value. "The stamp," he observes, "is not an engraving published for the satisfaction of collectors, but an official instrument created for the service of the public." 3. Counterfeits, when made with a view to defraud the governments, or, in some exceptional cases, as an indispensable means of verification (*e.g.*, Moldavia, 1st issue). 4. Essays issued by a postal administration, or, at its instigation, by private engravers, but not mere speculative productions. In the "Minor Gazette," beginners are, with reason, warned against putting their faith in obliterations as a guarantee of authenticity, and good advice is given them as to the selection of their stamps. A second instalment of the "Catalogue Raisonné" and the usual "Chronicle" complete the number.

Le Timbre-Poste.—In the current number appears a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's article on "Stamped Envelopes," in which

those of Switzerland are treated of, commencing with the 5 c. envelope of Geneva. Dr. Magnus is not of those who doubt its authenticity because all the entire envelopes known are unobliterated. As to the adhesive 5 c. green on *white*, which is said to exist, the following are the learned Doctor's observations:—

It would be tolerably difficult to distinguish this stamp from the stamp of the envelope. However, as the paper of the latter is yellowish grey, if a stamp with small margin should turn up, on *white* paper, and gummed at the back, there would be a very strong presumption in favour of an adhesive stamp. But the yellowish tint which paper acquires in time, and the necessity for gumming a stamp in order to mount it on an envelope, render these characteristics very uncertain. The best proof that could be given of the existence of adhesive stamps printed on white paper would be to produce an uncut pair of them. Until then the existence of the adhesive stamp, printed in colour on white paper, will always appear to us doubtful, and the distinction between it and the cut envelope very problematical.

The number closes with "Three facts in the History of the Postage Stamp in Austria," by Baron A. de Rothschild. The first of these facts is, that whilst the postage between Austria and France, prior to the conclusion of a postal treaty, was about thirty-two centimes, it is now, by virtue of the treaty, sixty centimes, of which sum twenty centimes go to the profit of the Austrian treasury, and is a clear loss to the French public. This strange result arises from the application of a favourite doctrine of the French post-office, that it is entitled to collect a charge of twenty centimes on all letters traversing French territory, no matter to what extent, and that it recognises the right, on the part of foreign post-offices, to claim an equal sum.

The second fact has reference to the usefulness of stamped envelopes in Hungary. A correspondent of the baron, residing in Hungary, informed him that finding that many of his letters to France, duly prepaid by him by means of adhesive stamps, never reached their destination, he applied to the postmaster of his town—the second in importance in the realm of St. Etienne—for an explanation, and the latter then admitted to him that the postal *employés*, being very badly paid, did not hesitate to increase their income by removing the 25 krenzer stamps from letters for France, selling them, and destroying the letters themselves! The

Hungarian postmaster indicated to the applicant, as a friend, a means of escaping from a practice to which he declared his subordinates resorted from pure want, viz., the employment of stamped envelopes. Baron Rothschild, unable to guarantee the exactness of this piquant anecdote, closes it with the expression of a good-humoured doubt whether his friend may not have written with more wit than accuracy.

The third fact is, that the "journal tax"—which Austria collects by means of the well-known square stamp, with arms in centre—on all foreign journals, though termed a tax, is, in reality, a poorly disguised increase of the postal rates, and ought, so thinks the writer, to be considered as a serious infraction of the international conventions.

The Philatetical Journal opens, as usual, with the "Cream of the Magazines," and, in connection with the "Papers for Beginners," on Denmark, discusses, for the benefit of advanced collectors, the issue of the early Danish stamps, on paper *burelé*, and non-*burelé*, and prints the following list of the varieties, originally compiled by the late Mr. Pauwels.

FIRST ISSUE.—4. R.B.S.

No burelé.—Yellow-brown, chocolate.

Burelé, white or yellowish paper.—Yellow-brown, chocolate, dark brown.

SECOND ISSUE.—Dotted ground.

No burelé.—2 sk. blue, pale blue; 4 sk. brown, yellow-brown; 8 sk. green, *var.* on yellowish paper; 16 sk. grey-lilac, bright violet.

Burelé.—2 sk. pale blue; 4 sk. yellow-brown, chestnut-brown, varying; 8 sk. yellow-green.

WAVY GROUND.

No burelé.—4 sk. yellow-brown, brown; 8 sk. green; 4 sk. brown, *rouletted*; 16 sk. violet, *rouletted*.

Burelé.—4 sk. yellow-brown, chestnut-brown, deep brown; 8 sk. green.

4 sk. pale chestnut, *rouletted*.

Our contemporary closes its comments on the Danish stamps, with a bit of gossip anent the well-known pair of brown essays, "head of Mercury and king," which is worth reprinting.

During the year 1863, we obtained from Mr. Eric Ritzau, of Copenhagen (then a well-known collector), a pair of the genuine stamps, of which he gave us the history. Of the original essays, as submitted to government, either but three pairs had been preserved, or else but three pairs had been printed (our memory will not

allow us to state positively); but these three original pairs were thus dispersed, first, the pair in Mr. Ritzau's collection sent to us; secondly, a pair in the possession of a Danish gentleman, Mr. Hans Kiør, then residing in Hong Kong (who was also an old correspondent of ours), and third, a pair that Laplante (a then well-known Paris dealer) had managed to secure. Subsequently, a second pair was engraved, of which fifty pairs came into the hands of collectors—all others are forgeries; and this is the outline of the curious history of the three original pairs of Danish essays, as given to ourselves nine years ago, and which we never remember to have seen in print.

Following the "Cream of the Magazines" comes an instructive article by the Rev. R. B. Earée, on the Swedish stamps, and an intricate demonstration, by Mr. Tiffany, of the inaccuracy of the official documents quoted by us in 1867, in reference to the large-figure Argentine. We must admit that we lack the time to prove his calculations; and, on the other hand, we must also acknowledge that the history of these large-figure Argentines is not quite clear from doubt, in spite of the documents which were communicated to us.

In the article on "Novelties," the editor, referring to the issue of unperforated republican stamps to the French colonies, considers it self-evident that they must belong to the *engraved* type, "as this type has always hitherto been perforated, whilst the lithographed were unperforated;" but his argument proceeds on the assumption that there are no more lithographed stamps left, whilst to us it had seemed possible that the remnant of the lithographed supply had been sent out to the colonies.

The valuable paper on "The Turkish Stamps," by "A Parisian Collector," commenced some months back is completed, and Mr. Atlee's monograph on the Sandwich Islands is continued in the present number. From the latter we learn that the recent forgeries of the 1 and 2 c., figure black on white wove, blue wove, and blue laid (according to a statement made to Mr. Atlee by a continental dealer of known probity), were received direct from the postal authorities of Honolulu. It is therefore evident, says the writer, that the officials have lowered themselves to commit a fraud on stamp-collectors, for the sake of putting money into their probably famished exchequer.

"Our Catalogue" contains some further

announcements respecting Mr. Edward L. Pemberton's projected work, including that of his intention, for clearness' sake, to "eschew minor variations in the texture of unwater-marked paper, and to catalogue no *subsidiary* shades." "The Latest Strike," "A Fool answered according to his Folly," "Reviews," and "Answers," complete a fair average number.

The Philatelist for September is principally noticeable for the continuation of two well-known articles—"The Envelopes of Germany," and "The Spud Papers." In the former the Wurtemberg emissions form the subject of analysis, and the following observations occur therein with regard to the relative excellence of the impression of the envelopes at Berlin and Stuttgart:—

Another element of variety is dependent on the inscriptions. The Wurtemberg envelopes were manufactured at Stuttgart. This first series bears marks of the want of that finish which is to be found in the envelopes manufactured at Berlin; and in no point is this want of finish so noticeable as in the printing of the inscription. If we compare the Wurtemberg envelopes with those of the southern division of Tour and Taxis, the inscription on which consists of the same words as on the Wurtemberg, the irregularity of the printing of these latter will be self-evident. Instead of there being an interval between each repetition of the four words of the inscription, the last word of one sentence frequently runs into the first word of the succeeding one, and the letters are sometimes above and sometimes below the line.

The "Spud" paper treats of the New Brunswick forgeries, of which specimens of these illustrate the article. None of them seem really dangerous; but the 17 c. black has rather a deceptive look about it, and it may be as well to mention that this forgery is distinguished by the *absence* of the brooch which appears in the genuine on the Prince's shoulder. In the article "Our Prize Essays," the editor describes the prizeman's designs, which he says "might be mistaken for coloured lithographs;" and having had the opportunity of inspecting them ourselves, we can fully endorse this encomium.

The American Journal of Philately is certainly not improving. The September number contains a useless "table of dates of first issue, and number of stamps issued by each country." The sole novelty in the article on new issues, is a mythical Chinese local stamp, value $\frac{1}{2}$ *boo*, and supposed to have been issued at Hongkong by a firm

styled Sutherland and Co.;—probably an American house. *The American Journal of Philately* has no doubt of the authenticity of the stamp. The instalment of "Notes on United States Locals" is occupied with a recantation of past errors in description. The "Notes on the Stamps of Brazil" are well-written, but contain absolutely no new information; and the number closes with a reprint of an article written by Dr. Gray ten years ago.

THE CITY DELIVERY POSTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

BY C. H. COSTER.

I.—THE CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO.

[ALTHOUGH many of the varieties of the "penny post" were described in a recent number of *The Philatetical Journal*, I trust that no apology is needed for reproducing them here, together with such other types and information as I have been able to obtain.]

This company was started in the year 1855 by one J. P. Goodwin, for the purpose explained in the following circular, which we have extracted from the June number of *The Philatetical Journal*.

"Penny Post Company, Office, 135, California Street, San Francisco. By enclosing a 5 cents envelope to the Penny Post Co. in a letter, that may be sent up by express for 25 cents, the answer enclosed in that envelope will be delivered in San Francisco by 7 o'clock, without further charge. Rates—5 cents prepaid, or 10 cents not prepaid."

It had offices established in several of the principal cities of the west, as enumerated on the printed franks of the company, illustrated on the succeeding pages.

To commence with the envelopes, the types of which we will designate by the letters appended thereto.

A.—Unfortunately, the illustration will give but an indifferent idea of the original. The discrepancies arise through the printers having no type similar to the old-fashioned style used on the envelope in question. I will point out the differences:—

"To the Penny Post Co." is in open letters.

"For" is in shaded letters.

"No." and "Street" are in much larger letters.

"California" is in open letters.

The government postage is prepaid by unperforated 3 cent and 10 cent stamps of the 1851 issue, which are postmarked "St. Louis." It bears the usual handstamp of the "Penny Post Company" in the left-hand lower corner.

Next we have an envelope in everywise similar, excepting that it is slightly larger, and reads PENNY POST PAID, 7. This I have not seen, but I have received notice of it from a valued correspondent, who says it is prepaid by two 3 cent stamps of the 1851 issue, and that it is endorsed "Answered, Novr. 7, 1855." *The Philatetical Journal* notices a cut copy of the above, which, it says, is from an 1853 envelope. All the above are printed in black on buff coloured envelopes.

B.—The illustration speaks for itself. The words "To," "No.," "Street," and "Cal." are slightly different in the original, which is on a 3 c. buff envelope of 1853, and impressed in black. The specimen from which I now describe is dated in pencil "February, 1856." *The Philatetical Journal* notes a 2 c. to match, but reading "To the post office." As, however, it is cut from the envelope, further particulars are lacking.

C.—The transverse oval is embossed, and it is impressed in red on a 3 cent 1853 envelope.

D.—For exactly what purpose this was used I am at a loss to surmise; I can scarcely think that it was used for the private correspondence of the company, but rather that the notice at top is intended to call the attention of the sender to the fact that it is not printed on a government envelope, and must, therefore, be prepaid in government stamps; and that it does not allude to the private fee of the "penny post," which was probably collected at destination. It must be understood that I do not assert this as a fact, but merely give it as a suggestion.

As to the *adhesives*, we will designate them by numbers for reference.

1.—Transverse oval, formed by row of pearls, surrounded by single line, enclosed in rectangular frame. The space between the oval and the outside frame is filled up with straight lines. In the centre: CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO. in curved line at top; 5 CENTS in centre; at bottom, PAID TO THE POST OFFICE, curved. Apparently from a wood-block. Blue impression on rough yellowish paper.

2.

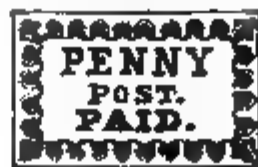
blue impression.

3.



"

4.



"

These last three are, to all appearance, printed from steel dies. I have no proof that No. 4 was ever used by the "California Penny Post Company," but I believe that No. 3 undoubtedly was.

5.—*The Philatetical Journal* also notes a stamp, which is very similar to the design enclosed in the rectangular frame forming a part of envelope B; "but the entire background is of very fine horizontal lines, on which PAID 5 appears in white letters, surcharged with FROM THE POST OFFICE, CARE OF THE PENNY POST CO., in text hand, above which are the words CALIFORNIA PENNY POSTAGE. The small imitation stamp is larger, and clearly resembles the 1853 envelope; the impression is blue, on very thin white paper." It is somewhat dubious as to whether this is an adhesive or has been cut from an envelope. The *pros* and *cons* may be found at the top of page 107 of the journal from which I extract the above.

A.

TO THE PENNY POST CO.**PENNY-POSTAGE PAID, 5.**

FOR _____

No. _____ Street,

CALIFORNIA.

The party whose name is on this Envelope, is hereby authorized to open the same and appropriate its contents.

B.

LETTERS and other MAIL MATTER deposited in any Post Office, will be DELIVERED in SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON, or MARYSVILLE, immediately on the arrival of the Mail, if addressed to the care of the "PENNY POST CO."



To _____

No. _____ Street,

Cal.

C.

The Penny-Post Co.

deliver letters enclosed
in these Envelopes
immediately on the
distribution of the
Mails in

**San Francisco,
Sacramento,
Stockton,
Benicia,
Marysville,
Coloma,
Nevada,
Grass Valley,
Mokelumne Hill**

TO THE PENNY POST CO.

Care of _____
No. _____ Street,

Cal.

The party to whose care this is directed is hereby authorized to open the same and appropriate its contents.

D.

Letters enclosed in this Envelope *alone* cannot be forwarded, as the Postage is not paid. Send your letter, then enclose in envelope addressed to the Penny-Post Co. Write plain. Give occupation, number and name of Street when known.

Ta _____

No. _____ Street,

Car.

Care of the Penny-Post Co.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

JAPAN.—The values quoted for the perforated set by *The American Journal of Philately* appear to be incorrect. Our Brighton contemporary, whose information is doubtless derived from a trustworthy source, states them to be as follows:—

$\frac{1}{4}$ tenpo.	
$\frac{1}{2}$ tenpo	chocolate-brown
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	sage-green
1 "	blue
2 "	vermilion.

1 tenpo.

2 tenpoes.

It also adds: "The $\frac{1}{2}$ tenpo sage-green is the only gummed stamp of this issue; we therefore presume that it supersedes the $\frac{1}{4}$ tenpo chocolate-brown, and that the latter will become scarce. Doubtless a perforated 5 tenpoes is in use, but no specimen has yet reached us. It will be noticed that the symbol which appeared at the top of the old set is found at the bottom of the new, with one variable device above." The impression of these new-comers is on the whole inferior to that of the unperforated set, the designs being more or less blurred. The central characters alone are finer. Our contemporary gives no reason for his assumption that a 5 tenpo stamp is in use, but the extension of the postal system would form a sufficient ground for crediting its existence.

The *Gazette des Timbres*, to hand since the above was written, gives the values as *sen*, or *zeni*; but in these denominations it is easy to trace the *tenpo* of the English journals, and this value is admitted on all hands to be the equivalent of the American *cent*. Our Parisian contemporary gives the following explanation of the inscription, which seems to us to be rather contradictory.

"The new stamps are of the same type as the old, but of the two characters in black which they bear, the lower, which signifies *sen* or *zeni*, is the reproduction of the upper one on the old. In fact, the stamps are issued in a new currency, hence whilst in the old the value is expressed in *mons*, the new has it in *sen* or *zeni*."

Now, such being the case, it seems to us that the character on the new stamps, signifying *sen* or *zeni*, can hardly be the reproduction of the character on the old stamps, signifying *mons*; and if, in fact, the old stamps bear the character which represents *sen*, or *zeni*, then their value cannot have been expressed in *mons*, unless, indeed, both denominations are quoted on the stamps.

Dr. Magnus gives as reasons for the impossibility of deciphering the characters by means of Mr. Earé's list, that, as regards the brown and greyish green, the figure representing $\frac{1}{4}$ is not found therein; and as for the two higher values, the difficulty in recognising them results from the fact, that the signs on the first stamps, and those given by the journals, are the common Japanese figures, whilst the signs on the new blue and red stamps are "monumental" figures—i.e., as we understand it, antique numerals.

SPAIN.—Through the kindness of an esteemed correspondent, we are enabled to announce that the new emission for this country will come into use on this 1st of October, and will consist of the following values:—

With figure of value:

4-4 cent de peseta	pale blue (unperf.)
2 " "	mauve, red-violet.
5 " "	deep green.

With head of king:

6 cent de peseta	bright blue.
10 " "	dull lilac.
12 " "	lilac.
25 " "	light brown.
40 " "	pale brown.
50 " "	pale green.

With profile of king:

1 peseta	dull lilac.
4 " "	pale brown.
10 " "	pale green.

We hope soon to have a sight of these long-expected novelties, and so be able, in

the next number, to furnish our readers with a more minute description of them. Meanwhile, we trust they may be worthy of our most sanguine anticipations.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Fatejh* (Konrak). The handstamped envelopes of this district have but just made their appearance, fourteen months after their discovery. The design is an odd one, and may give rise to much conjecture as to the staple productions of *Fatejh*. If the gun be a fowling-

picce, and the birds partridges, then the intimation which these signs may be taken to convey, that there are some good covers in the neighbourhood of *Fatejh*, may prove useful to sporting philatelists in search of "fresh fields and pastures new," and the illustration appears with seasonable appropriateness. However, leaving the task of deciphering the design to more competent hands, we have to notice that there are two values of this design, viz., 4 kop., "for letters going to post-towns"—so says our correspondent—and 6 kop., "for letters delivered in the district." Hence it will be seen, that the charge for delivery in the neighbourhood is higher than that for conveyance to a post town. The colours are 4 kop. dark blue, and 6 kop. vermilion, and the impression is on the flap of the envelope.

Belozersk.—The stamp for this district is stated by the Belgian journal to be now printed on cartridge-paper, and the impression is said to be better than it used to be.

Soummy.—The same authority notices a Soummy 5 kop. red, changed in value to 6 kop. by the simple expedient of a pen-and-ink alteration of the figure. We should hardly care to insert a specimen of such a "provisional" stamp unless we received it direct from the post-office, and hardly then; for the facilities for manufacturing a supply would form an overpowering temptation to dealers of a certain class. The information quoted by M. Moens, that 1 kop. green, 2 kop. blue, and 5 kop. red stamps "have existed," is rather too vague to be of any great value.

Riasin.—The 2 kop. black, most probably

superseded by a 5 kop., is now printed in gold, copies of which have been received by M. Moens, who also notices that the 2 kop. blue has changed from pale to Prussian blue, in consequence of a new supply having been printed off.

LIVONIA.—Annexed is the engraving which arrived too late for insertion in our last. In reference to our inability to comprehend the change in the design, an esteemed correspondent writes us that the arm grasping a sword is no other than the coat of arms of Wenden; whereas the winged griffin, which appeared on an earlier issue of the Wenden stamps, is the heraldic device of the county of Livonia.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—The stamps of the Portuguese settlements, or Goa stamps, as we may for shortness term them, are now generally admitted to be genuine, and we willingly withdraw the protest which we felt called upon to lodge against them on their first appearance. Their original describer, M. Moens, has given a catalogue of the various types, which we cannot do better than reproduce, acknowledging that we avail ourselves of the translation of the same already published by our Birmingham contemporary. Two types have been discovered and may briefly be identified by the following distinctions:—

FIRST SERIES.

First Type.—Wove paper, thin, *percés en points* (16) *sur ligne droit*.

10 reis	black,
20 "	vermilion.
900 "	bright violet.

Second Type.—Same paper and perforation as above.

40 reis	dull blue.
100 "	green.
200 "	olive-yellow.

SECOND SERIES.

First Type.—Wove paper, much thicker, perf. 13½, square punctures.

10 reis	black.
20 „	vermilion.
40 „	ultramarine.
100 „	grass-green.
200 „	canary.
300 „	dark violet-brown.
600 „	„ „
900 „	„ „

THIRD SERIES.

First Type.—Laid paper, perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$, square punctures.

10 reis	black.
20 „	vermilion.
40 „	ultramarine.

Our Belgian *confrère* having been able to complete his list, after the examination of a supply of all the values which has reached him from the colony, is able to certify that the second type is no longer employed for any of the values. He also states that a new series is about to be issued, the existing design not giving entire satisfaction. Nothing indeed could well be poorer. One frame serves for all the values, the indicating numerals of which are afterwards hand-struck in the centre of the circle.

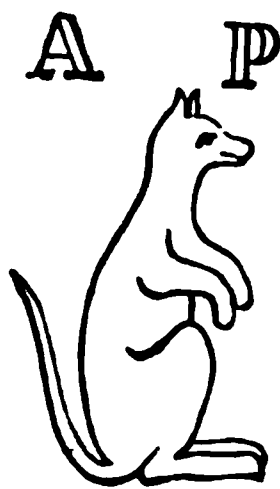
MOLDAVIA.—The mystery which enveloped the stamps of the first issue of Moldavia, has been in a great measure cleared away by the investigations of collectors, consequent on the publication of the official documents relative to this issue, which appeared first in *Le Timbre-Poste*, and which were laid before our readers in the XVIIth and XVIIIth numbers of the "Papers for Beginners."

In No. XIX., Mr. Overy Taylor, in reference to the five types described by Dr. Magnus, stated that the weight of opinion was in favour of the genuineness of the stamps of the *first* types on *laid* paper; that of this type and paper three values were known, viz., the 27, 54, and 108 paras, and that the 81 paras was still to be discovered. He further stated that this was the verdict of Mr. Philbrick, "A Parisian Collector," and other authorities, in which he begged leave to concur. This opinion was further confirmed in an article by "A Parisian Collector," which appeared in the February number of *The Philatelic Journal*, in which the author says, "Up to

the present time, no specimen of the 81 paras has been found on laid paper, but we would venture to predict that it exists; and our own belief is, that the only stamps which formed a portion of this issue, are the 27 paras, the first type of the 54, the first type of the 108, and the unknown type of the 81."

The untiring energy of the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* has been at length crowned with success. A specimen of the 81 paras has been disinterred by him, answering all the requirements to its thorough genuineness. It is on laid paper, and obliterated with the circular handstamp mentioned, *sup.* page 70;* the name of the town in the upper half being GALATZ, and the date 26-9. The obliterating ink is of the same colour and nature as that found on all the other known authentic specimens of the 27, 54, and 108 paras on laid paper. The type belongs to that described by Dr. Magnus as type III. We are informed that copies of this type exist in the collections of Dr. Magnus and Mr. Philbrick, on ordinary plain wove paper; but they are unobliterated, and therefore, if from the same die, of which we cannot speak from personal examination, they are probably reprints.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The outline of a Kangaroo, surmounted by the letters A. P.,



forms the watermark of certain penny newspaper bands, the stamps on which are surcharged "specimen," and no one knows whether this watermark is in use, or is merely an essay. *The Philatelic Journal* believes it is at present in use; but it rather oracularly adds, "From a circumstance which has come to our knowledge, we think we may safely assert that, if not current *now*, it will not be used at all." Our engraving is less than half the size of the watermark it represents. What can be the meaning of the letters A. P.? Do they stand for Australian postage?

ECUADOR.—We find in the current number of the *Gazette des Timbres*, an engraving of a new type for these stamps, of which a 1 real

* The word in the lower half is not MOLDAVIA, but MOLDOVA.

orange-yellow has already appeared. The engraving is exceedingly rough, but whether intentionally, or not, we cannot say; if, however, the blurred illustration is a studiously exact copy of the original, then certainly the Ecuador authorities have not gained much by the change of type. The design is an evident copy of that of the Costa Rica stamps. The arms are in the centre, with the lictorial fasces beneath, in a foliate frame, above which is a scroll, inscribed in small letters, CORREOS DE ECUADOR, and above that again is an arched label, inscribed PORTO-REAL, broken by the figure 1, on a circular disk. The value is repeated in letters on an horizontal label in the lower margin. The stamp is lithographed on white paper, and is *piqué* 10½.

UNITED STATES.—It has been decided to issue post cards, which are to make their appearance on this 1st of October. They are to bear an impressed one cent stamp, and also a head of the goddess of Liberty, with the legend UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD, and the instructions: "Write the superscription on this side, and the communication on the other." There is something rather pedantic in the case of the word "superscription" in this sentence, but then it would not have done to have textually copied the English form. The Americans are no doubt right in terming the card a "postal" card; the term "post card" seems to us objectionable, and to be, in fact, a verbatim rendering of the inscription on the foreign cards.

MEXICO.—A six cent olive-green of the new type, on ordinary white paper, without any blue lines on the back, has just been received at Brussels; it is probably not too much to anticipate that the other values will put in their appearance on paper without the *moiré* back. Possibly the accession of a new president may give rise to the emission of a new series; *certes*, the present one, if withdrawn, will not be regretted, except by collectors who have failed to obtain specimens.

PHILIPPINES.—The only true and correct list of the values of the new series is the following:—

6 cents de peseta			
16	"	"	ultramarine.
62	"	"	lilac.

1	pcseta	25	cents	blue on flesh.
2	"	50	"	rose (?)
5	"			grey (?)

We should like to know what is the value of the peseta here referred to.

MAURITIUS.—The Belgian magazine states that it has received intelligence of the preparation of two new envelopes, value, 10d. rose, 1/8 blue. There will also be a tenpence adhesive, "morocco colour and gold." *The Philatelic Journal* throws doubt on this announcement, arguing, with some reason, that news of the intention to issue these new stamps would more probably come from Europe than from the island.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The 10 cents rose-lilac, introduced by M. Moens, but unknown to the postal authorities of the island, he now states was received by him indirectly from Mons. Maury, who has not yet come forward with any explanation as to how, when, and where he obtained it. Have the forgers of the 4 cents had the audacity to invent a value, and palm it off on the well-known Parisian dealer as a veritable issue?

ROUMANIA.—The Roumanian government, tired of the lithographic productions of native artists, has ordered a set of engraved stamps at Paris, and they are on the eve of making their appearance; so saith that oft-quoted authority, *Le Timbre-Poste*. Meanwhile, the printing off of the existing type has been arrested, and some post-offices which have run out of ten bani stamps are selling pairs of five bani in their stead.

ALASKA. (Behring's Straits).—Dr. Magnus closes his chronicle of new issues in the current number of his journal, with the following postscript. "At the moment of going to press, a trustworthy person informs us that he has learnt from a traveller, that a private post-office, using its own postage stamps, exists at the Russian establishment of Alaska, to the south of Behring's Straits. We give the statement under reserve."

SWEDEN.—It is stated that a new envelope and a new post card, each of the value of 10 öre, will make their appearance on the 1st of January; if so, then a new 10 öre adhesive will also be required. No sensible explanation is yet offered of the issue of a post card at the same price as the envelope.

FINLAND.—We have received information from a semi-official source, that new 8 peuni post cards have been issued with the inscriptions in *three* languages (*qy.*, Finnish, Swedish, and Russ). These may fairly be termed the polyglot cards.

SERVIA.—The one para stamp of this country, now printed on thick white paper, is no longer perforated. A fresh emission, signalling the majority of the young prince, may surely be anticipated.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—The shilling stamp, says *The Philatetical Journal*, now comes over in a brown-orange shade.

TRINIDAD.—We also learn that the latest arrivals of the shilling stamp for this colony are printed orange.

THE POISONED POSTAGE STAMPS.

AN AMERICAN STORY.

[THE following curious narrative caught our eye in a French paper of recent date, and was doubtless originally translated from some American journal. We translate it back into English, and give it for what it may be worth].

Doctor Chesley, of Nottingham, New Hampshire, received, a few days since, a letter, bearing a signature with which he was unacquainted, and enclosing two postage stamps, accompanied with a request for a prompt reply to an address in New York. The doctor, thinking he had unearthed a client, wrote off instantaneously the required reply, and stuck on the envelope one of the stamps he had received. But no sooner had he passed his tongue across the gummed back of the stamp than he felt a sudden qualm. He immediately tried his pulse, looked at his tongue in the glass, listened to his own breathing, and set down in writing the following diagnostic:—"Mysterious sensation of lassitude; convulsive beating of the heart; difficulty in breathing; general disturbance of the system." Having thus "diagnosed," the doctor called his wife, and said to her,—"My dear I have poisoned myself with this postage stamp."

"Intentionally?" she asked.

"No," he replied. "Involuntarily. It was sent to me through the post, and I did not know it was poisoned."

"My dear, it's not possible," returned the wife.

"Not possible," he cried. "That's just like the women,—well then, madame, do me the favour to lick the other postage stamp." And he handed her the second stamp sent. She wetted it with her tongue, and was immediately seized with the same symptoms as those of her husband, but of a much more violent character.

"There, I told you so," cried the doctor, triumphantly. Then he felt his wife's pulse, made her show her tongue, applied his ear to her chest, and said, rubbing his hands, "You are much more severely bitten than I. Would you like to know how that happens?"

"I would much rather that you saved me," murmured the wife.

"Let us go in an orderly way to work," replied the doctor. "You must first learn why the symptoms are more accentuated with you than with me; secondly, I shall save myself, for, having absorbed the poison first, it is but logical that I should get rid of it the first. After that I will take you in hand."

Here the doctor made a pause, introduced his finger and thumb into a tobacco pouch, thence withdrew a pinch of tobacco, and holding it under his wife's nose,—“You have often reproached me, madame,” said he, “with smoking tobacco, but it is this vulgar habit which you may thank for not being a widow now, for the tobacco has acted as an antidote—vulgarly called a counter-poison—and that is why you are worse than I am.”

If the doctor had continued a few minutes longer, his wife would have been lost; but he stopped in time, took an emetic himself, and administered to her another emetic, and both husband and wife are quite well to-day. The suspected stamps have been sent to Boston to be analysed.

A MECHANICAL STAMP ALBUM.—An ingenious Philadelphia philatelist is about to apply for a patent for a mechanical postage-stamp album on the revolving plan, which has two advantages over the ordinary album,—self-securing, or a new method of holding the stamps without gumming; and a new plan of exhibiting the stamps.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

A LIGHT RED penny Nova Scotia is certainly a great rarity, for Mr. S. Allan Taylor says so, and who could doubt his word? He informs our publishers that no one ever seems to have seen it before; and then with a touch of sarcasm, which is not without its substratum of truth, he adds, "It would doubtless be worth many pounds, if some aspiring philatelist would put it up at auction." We do not think that Mr. Taylor—philatelic Barnum as he is—expected to be able to palm off this scarce rarity on our publishers, though, perhaps, had he succeeded with the trial specimen, more might have been forthcoming; but whilst giving even Mr. Taylor his due, we think it as well to hint to him that chloride of sodium (common salt), or of lime, had a great deal more to do with the production of his light red Nova Scotia, than had the printer; in fact, the presence of the chemical can be detected almost immediately on applying the moistened tip of the tongue to the stamp. Our readers also may take the hint, and fight shy of similar transformations.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue prix-courant de Timbres-poste, essais divers, timbres-télégraphe, timbres fiscaux, &c. Fourth edition. 1st part. 1872. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THIS publication, when it arrived at a third edition, in the early part of last year, was so enlarged as to embrace essays, telegraph, and fiscal stamps. The fourth edition now appears, with these various stamps arranged under the head of each country, so that at a glance may be seen what each country has done, not only in postage, but in other stamps; and though still called a *prix-courant*, it is in reality one of the most complete catalogues of postage, telegraph, and fiscal stamps that has yet appeared. In former editions of this work, M. Moens had adopted an alphabetical order of countries in each quarter of the globe; he has now abandoned this plan, and the whole is arranged alphabetically, without reference to the quarter of the world in which the various countries are

to be found. For our own part, we prefer this mode to the geographical arrangement of the countries adopted by M. Berger-Levrault. What is required in a catalogue is easy reference; and now that the number of stamps and stamp-producing countries has so much increased, simplicity has become more than ever a *desideratum* in the arrangement of a catalogue.

The first number, which embraces A, B, C, and a portion of D, has come to hand so late, that we are unable to give more than this cursory notice of the work, reserving a fuller review of it until further advance is made towards its completion. We notice with satisfaction, that the perforations are given in the present edition; and that the dates of issue, as also the colours, have been carefully revised. When complete, we may venture to predict that it will be a great boon to philatelists of all classes.

Kpankla (segunda edicion de) y Klentrron (primera edicion de). Cartas Philatélicas del Dr. Thebussem y de Don Eduardo de Mariátegui. Madrid: Rivadeneyra, 1871.

THE second edition of the quaint and well-known *Kpankla* presents a considerable increase in size on the first. It has taken unto itself a supplement, entitled "*Klentrron*," and consisting of a letter from Don E. de Mariátegui to Dr. Thebussem. The supplement, we must avow, is not of great interest, but the body of the work is replete with pleasant reading. In fact, it is just the kind of publication required to popularise collecting in the country in whose language it is written. If we may venture to give a hint to its learned author, it would be to the effect that, with a little further enlargement, room might be found for the insertion of a chapter which should recapitulate in general terms, the introduction and spread of the postal system and its concomitant stamps, with a passing reference to those emissions which illustrate, in an eminent degree, the value of stamps as artistic products and historical evidences. It will then answer still more conclusively than at

present, the trite query—What is the use of them? and tend still further to spread the knowledge of philately in the country of the *Hidalgos*.

Of the new matter introduced into the second edition of *Kpankla*, the most noticeable is the reference to the obliteration of the surplus stock of Spanish stamps with a cross. Dr. Thebussem, who is no other than our old friend Senor M. de Figueroa, begins by quoting an old ordinance of Philip II., enjoining on his officials never to begin any letter or other document otherwise than with the sign of the cross, nor finish without some such phrase as "God guard you." He then, passing from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, gives the text of the post-office regulation, dated 14th September, 1857, which requires that all useless stamps shall be marked with a cross in black ink. It is an odd rule when one comes to think of it, and it would seem to have had something to do with the accumulation of a large stock of obsolete issues. Dr. Thebussem does not quote the order for cancelling surplus stamps with broad printed bars. There is an immense number of these impressions in the market, and they have become of no more value than an ordinary used German stamp. The Spanish law against dealing in postage stamps does not operate in the case of these unsightly specimens.

In conclusion, we need scarcely say that we trust this publication will have the wide circulation it undoubtedly merits, for it is a striking evidence in itself of the thought-developing power of the study of stamps, and philatelists may well be proud to reckon the distinguished Spanish *savant* among their ranks.

THE master of one of the district post-offices at Ryde announces, by the following notice posted upon his shutters, his resignation of the duties of postmaster. "Notice.—Esplanade Post-office.—This office is closed, the remuneration of *eightpence* per day not paying working expenses—namely, receiving and despatching letters and newspapers, issuing post-office orders, transacting savings-bank business, and issuing dog and gun licenses; for which sum we had to find string, blotting-paper, pens, red and blue ink, gas, and 14 hours a day constant attendance, from seven a.m. till nine p.m., find office room, and fit up the office at our own expense. The brass plates for newspapers to be sold cheap. Inquire within.—Joel Hearder."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURCHARGING ON THE MEXICAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I have a specimen of the 8 reales violet, or lilac, first issue Mexican, surcharged ORIZABA. It also has an oblong mark impressed in black—DE CORREOS TAV; the remainder is not on the stamp. I have not noticed this in any of the lists.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. COLLES.

WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—How would some such definition as the following meet the query heading Mr. Taylor's article in your last number?

Postage stamps are marks attached, in various ways (by means of adhesive labels, envelopes, wrappers, hand-stamping, and so on), to letters, cards, circulars, newspapers, packets, &c., and signifying—with respect to the cost of transit of such through the post office—one of three things:—

a.—That a certain payment (including registration and too-late fees) has been made beforehand towards defraying said cost.

b.—That a certain payment is expected to be made on delivery.

c.—That the letter, packet, &c., is, for some reason or other, carried free of charge.

I confess that to me anything included in the above seems worthy of being called a "postage stamp." Whether all such should be collected is quite another matter. Let each one choose his own standard, and then be consistent.

Can you (or any of your correspondents) give me any information about the Italian magazines alluded to in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ii., p. 141, vol. iv., p. 128? The progress of philatelic literature in Italy seems to have been overlooked by writers on the subject. I have noticed one reference to it elsewhere, but cannot lay my hands on the passage. The *Timbrophilist*, too, advertised by Van Rinsum, in 1869, as "published monthly in the Dutch language," I have never seen mentioned in any English magazine.

Yours faithfully,
Inverness. P. I. A.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Under the above heading, Mr. Overy Taylor draws attention to those various auxiliaries of postage stamps proper, that, either by intent or accident, have come to be accepted by almost every postage stamp collector. As Mr. Taylor invites the serious attention of his readers to this subject, I feel sure he will not object to my criticism of his statements, particularly as in many points Mr. Taylor's views and my own are identical.

Mr. Taylor divides his remarks under the following heads:—(1) official; (2) unpaid letter; (3) returned letter; (4) registration and too-late; (5) newspaper impressed stamps. Each of these subjects I will discuss in their due order.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.—My opinion concerning these impressions is given at p. 177 of your last volume. My list, then commenced, was written purely upon a point of consistency; for I said then, as I repeat now, that if we take

the adhesives we must, to be reasonable, also take the impressed. Mr. Taylor advises the rejection of official stamps altogether, and to a certain extent I feel bound to agree with him. Collectors never will discard the Danish and Spanish officials, or the Indian "service;" but let them follow Mr. Taylor's advice to keep them "quite apart from postage stamps proper."

UNPAID-LETTER STAMPS.—Mr. Taylor's argument in favour of keeping these labels is logical, and one that certainly had not occurred to me. Here again, however, the old difficulty of adhesive *versus* handstamped comes to the fore. Granted "that although you cannot *buy* an unpaid letter stamp you have to pay for it;" if for that reason you accept these labels, how about those handstruck impressions that you also had to pay for? If Great Britain uses a large impressed figure, or a mere pen-mark to show what is to be paid by the receiver, and France uses a label for the same purpose, must the mere accident (as it were) of the latter country using an adhesive stamp prevent us from placing in our albums the device adopted by Great Britain? It might be argued, that if we confine ourselves solely to *adhesive* unpaid-letter labels, then must we, to be consistent, reject *all* postage stamps that are not adhesive. Such an idea, however, can never have any existence, except in theory.

RETURNED-LETTER STAMPS.—These are upon an equality with the official stamps, and if we accept one class we must accept the other; or, if we reject one we must reject the other. I consider them quite out of place in a postage-stamp album, and if taken, they should (with the officials) occupy a book to themselves. The only adhesives are the many varieties of Bavarian, and the one for Wurtemberg. Many of the former are very commonplace, and nearly all one sees of the latter are forged.

REGISTRATION AND TOO-LATE STAMPS.—These have been adopted by the following countries:—

<i>Registration.</i>	German Confederation.
	" Empire.
	Prussia.
	New Granada.
	New South Wales.
	Queensland.
	United States.
	Victoria.
<i>Too-late.</i>	Victoria..
	Trinidad.

Of these, were not those of our colonies sold to the public, and by *them* affixed to the letters? If so, their collectable value is at once settled. That the registration stamps of New Granada were issued to the public I am almost certain; therefore, the only ones that are *known* as used solely by the authorities, are the Prussian, German, and the lately emitted label of the United States. As to the Trinidad "too-late," I will give no opinion; but as all the stamps alluded to above (except these and that of the United States) show that a certain amount has been paid by the sender, I consider them collectable.

Before I enter upon the subject of newspaper stamps, let me give my philatelic creed. I believe in accepting for a postage-stamp collection all labels, envelopes, or cards issued to the public—no matter whether by governments or by private individuals—for the prepayment of correspondence. I also accept all labels or bands for newspapers or printed matter issued by government post-offices, or offices existing under authority of any government. By this rule respecting printed-matter stamps, we can ignore a lot of things that are "neither fish nor fowl, nor good red herring," as the old saying has it.

Among others, I place upon the *index expurgatorius*

the numerous British locals, and the railway newspaper stamps of this and other countries. In passing, I may condemn the collecting of the Austrian newspaper-tax labels, as they were merely fiscal, and neither prepaid the papers to which they were attached, nor showed that the *postal* authorities had made any extra charge. The *violet* French journal stamps are equally valueless to collectors.

NEWSPAPER IMPRESSED STAMPS.—I am not aware that, with the exception of the Tuscany, any impressed newspaper stamps but our own were ever available for postal purposes. Although Mr. Taylor is quite correct in saying that our impressed stamps lost all their franking powers fifteen days after the date of their emission, still they *did* prepay newspapers through the post, and, therefore, they became postage stamps. These impressed stamps are still used by *The Times* and *Stamford Mercury*, and they are always obliterated, like other stamps, so how can we refuse to take them? Certainly, they are not issued to the public in one sense, yet they are in another. Anyhow, they are not used by the post-office, and the public pays for them before they are posted, and without the mediation of the postal authorities.

I have strung a few ideas together, making my remarks as compact as possible, but the subject of "What is a postage stamp?" is so intricate that I fear I have scarcely done justice to it in a letter.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham.

W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

[The assertion of our esteemed correspondent seems to us too large, when he states that the impressed stamps on newspapers *did* prepay them through the post, and therefore became postage stamps. The stamps impressed at present on newspapers are for the purpose of postage; but previously to the abolition of the duties on newspapers, every newspaper was compelled to bear an excise stamp. The sheet thus stamped enjoyed immunity from postage during a certain period from the date of publication, not from the fact of its being stamped, but from the fact of its being a newspaper.—Ed.]

THE PETERSBURG STAMP: FURTHER REPLY OF MR. COSTER.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I regret to be obliged to trespass further on your space concerning a subject on which I know Mr. Pemberton's opinion to be at variance with that of the great majority of stamp collectors. However, Mr. Pemberton's reply (*The Philatelic Journal*, p. 133) to my letters in your July and August numbers is not of a kind that I can let pass unnoticed, seeing that he endeavours to support the erroneous arguments that he has already advanced, not by bringing up any kind of *evidence* in rebuttal of such facts as I have already referred to, but rather by selecting *parts of sentences* from my letters, whose true meaning is lost from their being unaccompanied by the context; and even these selections he has so twisted and turned to suit his own purposes as to render them almost impossible of recognition.

In the first place, Mr. Pemberton points out, at some length, that in my July letter I state that I had "ascertained that the Petersburg stamp was not issued until some time in the latter half of 1861, and one of the clerks employed in the Petersburg post office says that it was used until the Confederate 5 c. stamp of De La Rue & Co. arrived, say, about May, 1862," and that in August I said that the "Petersburg stamp was not issued until March, 1862." This is all very true; but why did not Mr. Pemberton also quote the very decided qualification that accompanied the above extract in my July letter, viz.: "Although I have every reason for believing that the dates (*i.e.*, of issue and withdrawal), as given by me, are correct, I shall still continue to investigate this point." It is clear that I did

not fix "the latter half of 1861" as the exact date, but only as approaching the exact date of issue as nearly as I could then arrive at—else why should I have promised to further investigate the matter? Well, as the result of such further investigation, I found out that the stamp was issued early in 1862, as set forth in my communication of August. I cannot find any contradiction on my part here, seeing that I gave the date of 1861 with all possible reserve.

Mr. Pemberton then says, that after having stated, in July, that the stamp "was not issued until some time in the latter half of 1861," I said in August that I found "little or no chance of obtaining any clue to the date of issue until," &c., &c. If Mr. P. will kindly read the paragraph in my letter from which the above is extracted, he will perceive that it was not the *date of issue*, but the *exact date of issue*, to which the paragraph in question alluded.

He next compares six "assertions" made by me in July with seven that I made in August. They all hinge upon the supposition that I deny in August *positive assertions* that I made in July as to the date of issue; but having settled that point as above they all fall to the ground. By the way, Mr. Pemberton's "fact, assertion, comment, or whatever it is," number 4, speaks of May, 1863; I presume he means May, 1862.

But I have said quite enough as to the date of issue, which is, after all, a minor point, and not the ground on which Mr. P. based his argument as to the "abominable swindle," &c. His main point was that certain hand-writings were fictitious. Well, I produced abundant evidence from Mr. J. D. Young, of Petersburg, Va., to prove that Mr. Pemberton was in error. In his journal for July Mr. Pemberton throws out insinuations amounting to as much as saying that he believes Mr. Young to have been employed for the occasion to do what is called "cook up facts," and then even went so far as to declare that he did not believe in Mr. Young's existence at all. He does not even pretend to produce any kind of evidence or argument to sustain these outrageous insinuations, for the very plain reason that he could not possibly do so. In August, writing on the same subject (viz., the genuine character of the addresses on five envelopes), all the reply he makes is: "We stated in April that these spurious Petersburg stamps formed 'one of the cleverest, but most abominable swindles of recent days.' To that statement we are prepared to abide, and decline to accept Mr. Coster's explanations as in any way altering our expressed opinion that the specimens of type II., varieties 1, 2, 3, and 4 are quite spurious."

If "declining to accept," &c., is to be considered as *argument*, I may as well give up; but I scarcely think that the stamp-collecting fraternity will accept it as such. But to return to the questions of Mr. Young's existence and veracity. His existence I have already proven most effectually, and I think that the accompanying certificate from the British Vice Consul at Richmond settles the latter point (and, indeed, the former also) beyond the shadow of a doubt. It, therefore, seems to me that it is time for the "infallible" (?) Mr. Pemberton to play that "last trump card" to which he so mysteriously alludes, and which he appears to have heretofore kept tucked in his sleeve, therein imitating the immortal "heathen Chinese."

Of course Mr. P. could not resist the temptations to cast a few slurs on Mr. Steinback, and Mr. H—— N—— (not Mr. H—— W——, as Mr. Pemberton writes), but, it seems to me, that if he can find no other way of weakening Mr. Steinback's statement, it will not suffer much harm. Although the regulation of the Petersburg post-office may appear very arbitrary and absurd, I may mention that a

very similar rule exists here in regard to the government agencies for the sale of revenue stamps. Many of these agencies are prohibited from selling more than \$5 or \$10 (as the limitation may be fixed) to any one person at one time. Should any one desire to purchase a larger quantity, all he has to do is to buy, say, \$5 or \$10 worth at first, then leave the store and return and repeat the purchase, and so on, until he has purchased the requisite quantity. So the regulation of the Petersburg post-office does not appear so very improbable, after all. Apparently, Mr. Pemberton has never heard of such a thing as wishing to "test a point," though it does not seem beyond the bounds of possibility, not to say *probability*, that such might have been Mr. Nelson's object.

With regard to Mr. Pemberton's query—"Who is Mr. Campbell?" the note from Mr. Young that I forwarded to the editor of this magazine (for the purpose of examination) with my letter, which will probably appear in the September number, contained that information, so that I must await its return before giving an answer.

Begging leave to refer to the accompanying note from Mr. Young,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

New York.

CHAS. H. COSTER.

[The letter referred to by Mr. Coster, and still in our hands, states that Mr. Campbell was "formerly an owner, or part-owner, of The Daily Progress newspaper, published in Petersburg before and during the war."—Ed.]

[Letter forwarded through Mr. Coster]

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE"

SIR,—Through the kindness of Mr. Chas. H. Coster, I am offered the opportunity of defending myself, in your columns, against the gratuitous comments that *The Philatelic Journal* is pleased to make with reference to myself, in connection with the Petersburg stamp.

I believe that I cannot better accomplish my object than by inviting the attention of your readers to the certificate of the British Vice Consul at Richmond, appended to this note.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that all information that I furnished Mr. Coster was derived from responsible parties, in a position to know the particulars of the matter in question.

It is both difficult and painful, in this case, to reply to the aspersions on my character and standing; but I trust that the method I have adopted will prove satisfactory.

I am, Sir,

With high consideration,

Your obedient Servant,

Petersburg, Va.

JOHN D. YOUNG.

[COPY.]

British Vice Consulate,

Richmond, August 12th, 1872.

THIS is to certify, that from information of the most satisfactory character, I am convinced that Mr. John D. Young, of the firm of Messrs. R. A. Young & Bros., of Petersburg, Virginia (a mercantile house of high respectability), is a gentleman of integrity, whose character and reputation among the community in which he has resided during his whole lifetime, are such as to forbid anyone from entertaining the idea that he could be guilty of a fraud, or imposition of any kind.

Given under my hand and seal of office at the city of Richmond, on this 12th day of August, 1872.

(Signed) WILLIAM MARSHALL.

British Vice Consul.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—
New Granada—Wurtemberg—Spain—Cuba—Philippines—United States.

The Philatelist for October is unusually rich in novelties. It contains the first notice of the new stamps for Jamaica, Mauritius, New Zealand, Bermuda, Chili, and Great Britain, besides other items of interest. "A few Words on the Stamps of New Granada" forms the title of an able article by "Warden," of which a continuation is promised. The subject of this first instalment is the true chronological order of the first three issues. An American writer of note argues that the large rectangles inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NUEVA GRANADA, should, contrary to the received order, come first; "Warden" is able to prove, as the result of careful research, that these stamps are properly catalogued as forming the third series. His proof is as follows: On the 15th June, 1868, a complete readjustment of the relations of the different parts of New Granada to each other was brought about by a new constitution, which substituted the federal for the provincial system. The republic of New Granada, consisting of thirty-six provinces, was changed into the Granadine Confederation of eight states, viz., Antioquia, Bolivar, Boyaca, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Magdalena, Panama, and Santander. Under the Granadine Confederation the first two issues appeared—*without stars*, be it noted. Whilst they were in use a split in the confederation took place, which ultimately led to the holding of a congress, and this congress resulted in "a reunion under the name, 'United States of New Granada;' since September 20th, 1861, changed to that of United States of Colombia;" and it was after this reunion that the large rectangles were issued. The existence of *nine stars*, signifying nine states, is explained by the fact that Cundinamarca was then subdivided into two states, Tolima and Cundinamarca, as at present known. "Warden" further concludes that, as regards the two first series, "the CONFED. GRANADINA, *large figure*, were issued in the latter half of 1858, or early in 1859, and were shortly followed by the *small-figure* set; these last

being not improbably the issue of a rival post-office, started for convenience' sake during the troubles which temporarily divided the confederation." This brief analysis does but scant justice to the article, which contains other arguments, drawn from the postmarks, &c., to which we have not space to refer.

Following this paper comes the conclusion of the carefully written monograph on "The Envelopes of Germany," by "A Parisian Collector," the later Wurtemberg series forming the subject of investigation. Incidentally, an explanation is afforded of the difficulty of procuring money-order envelopes which have passed the post. It appears they bear a form of receipt, which has to be signed by the receiver, who then has to hand them back to the postman. In "The Spud Papers" the counterfeits of the Philippine and Cuban stamps of 1864, and those of the Austrian Mercury are commented on. The article on "Telegraph Stamps" contains a descriptive list of the Spanish and Cuban emissions. The former, though begun only in 1864, already number thirty-three varieties; whilst the Cuban, started in 1870, amount to eighteen. "The Philatelic Press;" a reprint of our analysis of the forgery of the new 4 c. Prince Edward Island; "Postal Scraps;" and "The Editor's Letter Box," complete a very readable number.

Le Timbre-Poste has a heavy list of new issues, extending through more than half the number. The remainder is occupied with an article on "Old Swiss Stamps," which we purpose reproducing in these pages; a short paper on "The Telegraph Stamps of British India;" a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's exhaustive paper on "Stamped Envelopes;" and a reply to our own observations respecting the alleged discovery of a series of stamps for the Philippines, issued in 1848. We cannot but felicitate ourselves on the result of our request for further information, for it has drawn from our *confrère* an explanation which places the authenticity of the stamps in question beyond all doubt. We can only regret that he did not give us, in the first place, the particulars he now vouchsafes, viz., that his correspondent holds an official position in the Philippines, is personally acquainted

with Don Gutierrez, the postmaster by whom the stamps were issued, and obtained from him the information which has been published, that Don Gutierrez has promised to procure a series of the stamps, and that when the said stamps are sent over they will be accompanied by justificatory documents. We regret also that our contemporary should have considered our remarks as intended to throw the least blame or discredit upon him. They were not written with the intention or expectation of giving him pain—we thought we had made that clear,—but simply because even M. Moens, in spite of his long experience, is still liable to be deceived, as he was in the matter of the Kissingen and Leitmeritz stamps. M. Moens charges us with not having had the frankness to admit we were wrong in condemning the stamps of the Portuguese Indies; but in our September number—a month before the appearance of this unmerited reproach—we had made the *amende honorable*. However, passing over the slight acerbity of his reply, we await the arrival of the 1847 series, which, alas! will go to swell the number of unattainable rarities.

Allgemeiner Briefmarken-Anzeiger.—Of this publication, Nos. 22 and 24 are now before us, dated, respectively, the 15th August and 15th September. It is published at Hamburg, and contains descriptions of new issues, articles, and intelligence as to the state of the stamp markets. There is a stamp bourse, or exchange, at Hamburg, and we learn that on the 11th September a fair business was done, there being a good attendance, in spite of the bad weather. The exchange is open two evenings per week, from eight to ten, and, as the addresses of the places of meeting are given, we presume it is held under cover. There is also a philatelic club, which the editor takes care to inform a correspondent certainly does exist, and for which the entrance fee is twelve groschen. Again: at Bremen and Lubeck there are stamp exchanges, and reports of the business done are published in this paper. In the literary portion we find reviews of contemporaries, notices of new stamps, and sundry chatty articles. Dr. Magnus is taken to task for being satirical on the German philatelic congress. It is not generous of him, says

our Hamburg *confrère*, to poke fun at them in that way; he would do better to translate the German newspapers, and thereby acquaint himself with the scope of the congress. Nevertheless, there is evidently no bitterness in the rejoinder, for the next sentence contains a gratuitously inserted announcement, that the subscription to the *Gazette des Timbres* may be lodged at any post-office in Germany. In another paragraph we get a notice of the evil doings of a certain M. Ernest Stoltze, junior, of Brunswick—no doubt a stamp forger or swindler,—who has gone away to Bohemia, leaving his hotel bills unpaid. Altogether this Hamburg journal has an earnest, business-like air about it. It would not be German if it were not practical, and in gregariousness the German philatelists outdo us. The collectors of Lubeck have formed themselves into a club, and our Hamburg friend tells us that the merry fellows intend getting up little suppers during the winter.

The American Journal of Philately.—"One only gets angry at the truth" is an old saying. Our contemporary, struck with the justice of our critique on his recent review of Mr. Scott's album, attributes it to malevolence. What a world of truth there must have been in our observations! Then, unable otherwise to escape from the dilemma in which he was placed by our discovery of two directly contradictory assertions in a recent number ("But few amateurs collect locals," and, "Locals are collected by most amateurs"), he explains them by stating that the latter was written by Mr. Scott, and the former by the *soi-disant* editor, Mr. Turner. Ah, that convenient Mr. Turner! We perceive now for what a wise purpose he was invented! Still, we hope he will avoid contradicting his author and publisher in such a point-blank style, and permit us seriously to assure the latter that his unwarranted ascription of unworthy motives on our part, will not prevent us from impartially reviewing his journal, and praising or blaming its contents, as truth may require. This much established, we have pleasure in complimenting Mr. Scott on the readableness of his current number, which contrasts very favourably with its

immediate predecessors. The continuation of Mr. Tiffany's article on the stamps of New Granada, contains a careful analysis of the 1863 series, and closes with the following sensible remarks on reprints in general, apropos of the reimpresions of the series under discussion.

A reprint made and issued by the authors of the original, and with the original die, plate, or stone, may serve, in its representative character, to fill the place of a rare original temporarily, and, without assuming to be other than it is, in some measure complete the historical interest of a collection; but even then it is only as a nearer approximation that it is of more value than a well-executed forgery or illustration. But when, by a transfer from the die, or from the imprint thereof, a so-called reprint is attempted, whether officially or by irresponsible parties, for the benefit of collectors, the perpetrator has produced only a counterfeit, devoid even of the timbro-maniacal apology, that "it shows the latest state of the die," and whoever attempts to pass it off as an original, attempts a forgery.

To Mr. Tiffany's article succeeds "Papers for Purchasers—No. 1.," by "H. J. R.," which forms the preface to a projected series of articles descriptive of forgeries, and is written in a pleasant, chatty style. We fear the value of descriptions of counterfeits is overrated; still, we wish the writer success in his endeavours to serve the good cause.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide is a well-conducted little paper, published in New Jersey; and the fact of its having reached its tenth number, is indicative of its possessing a certain support. The printing is good, and the illustrations effective. In the last number is given the following interesting explanation (copied from an American daily paper) of the delay which has occurred in the issue of post cards for the United States.

The opinion of Attorney-General Williams, on Saturday—in which he decides that the Postmaster-general had no authority under the new postal code to contract for postal cards, there being no specific appropriation made for that purpose, and he having, therefore, no warrant for using other appropriations—was brought about, it is said, by a quarrel among certain engraving companies, who allege that the whole postal card business was a job put into the hands of the National Bank Note Company. It is known that the sample card which was adopted by the department was got up by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and that the Department was in the act of issuing an advertisement asking for bids for furnishing the card like the sample, to be opened in a time so short that no company could prepare a sample to accompany its bid. Thus it is claimed the National Bank Note Company being the only one to furnish a sample, the contract would be awarded to it. The competing companies being assured of this, sought measures to kill the whole business,

proper competition not being allowed, and obtained legal advice in the matter. That advice was to the effect that the post-office department had no power to get up the cards without an appropriation, and the department being so informed asked an opinion of the Attorney-General, who decided as above stated. Postal cards will not therefore be issued until an appropriation is made for them by Congress at its next session.

Our contemporary claims that, as a matter of justice, we should give him (and not the *A. J. P.*) the credit of the first notice of the American registration stamps, which we are happy in doing.

The Postage-Stamp Reporter is an eight-page journal, hailing from Lowell, Mass. Its value as a philatelic publication is depreciated by that tawdry vulgarity of style which Americans are too apt to mistake for wit and vigour. Too often common sense is sacrificed to sound in the concoction of a silly sneer, as witness the following phrase: "The newest *abrasion* in English philatelic circles is the result of a heated discussion." One is tempted to inquire if the writer knows the meaning of the word "*abrasion*." The person who ridicules what he does not understand is also capable of appropriating, without acknowledgment, what does not belong to him. Our article on the forgery of the new 4 c. green Prince Edward Island is reprinted (though not in its entirety), without any notice whatever of the source whence it was derived. We hope the example we have the honour to show the editor of the *Reporter* in acknowledging our indebtedness to him for the really useful article on the new Japanese currency, reprinted in another part of the present number, will have its effect on him, and we shall rejoice if we find in future impressions of the *Reporter* more praiseworthy matter than exists in the copy now under notice.

The Canadian Philatelist.—This is a resuscitation of the journal which discontinued publication some months since. It dates from Quebec, and consists of eight pages of legible print. The proprietors are evidently animated with the desire of producing a respectable and useful paper, and we cordially wish them success. The first number opens with a well-written paper on the collection of envelopes. The subject is fairly discussed, and the writer gives his voice in favour of the acceptance of entire envelopes. Then

follows "Our Programme," in which the editor announces his intention to uphold the "extended system," whilst respecting the opinions of the less scientific body of collectors. From "The Progress of Philately in 1872," we are pleased to learn that "in Canada the prospects of stamp collecting are brighter, and no longer can it be said "the whole body of collectors are boys." Under the heading of "Newly-issued Stamps" the latest emissions are discussed and illustrated, some of the engravings, by the way, being very badly worked. A paper entitled "Stamp Collecting and its Advantages" is the first effort of Mr. John Lindsay, and, as such, is a very satisfactory production. We are always glad to hail the appearance of new writers, and we trust Mr. Lindsay will go on as he has begun, and be joined by other recruits.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

VIII.

SNOW'S DESPATCH.

At page 154 of the last volume will be found mentioned the small label of this post, printed in black upon blue paper. I am now able to add one upon buff, which has long had a place in an old American collection. From the good company in which this *vieux-neuf* figured, I have every faith in its authenticity.

SNOW'S EXPRESS.

Whether this express had any connection with Snow's despatch I am quite unable to determine, for both it and the stamp I am about to describe have hitherto been unknown to me even by name. The design (if such it may be called) is of the simplest, being an old-fashioned looking figure 1, with SNOW's reading upwards on one side, and EXPRESS reading downwards on the other. Above is ONE, between two strokes, and below is CENT, similarly placed. This unique stamp is printed in blue upon thin paper.

P. O. PAID.

Another resuscitation; but when or where it was used, or for what purpose I know not,

and I fear there is but little chance of finding out.

The aspect of this newly-found stamp is here reproduced. It is, as will be observed, very commonplace and practical. It was printed in black, both upon white and upon blue paper.

P. O. PAID,
One Cent.

Were it not that the pair I have are upon paper so old as to almost fall to pieces with the gentlest handling, I should look upon them with great doubt; but, as it is, I shall believe in their genuine character until the contrary be proved. The value being only a cent, it is just possible that they were emitted by the postmaster of some government office as a means of collecting a late fee; but this is only surmise.

U. S. PENNY POST.

Through the kindness of the publishers I am able to give a representation of a very rare and finely-engraved local, never before chronicled.

Unfortunately, the only specimen I have seen is cancelled with an undecipherable postmark, so that I am not able to mention the place of its nativity. From the prefix U.S., I should almost be inclined to accredit it to the "United States City Despatch Post," of New York. The impression is black on white.

3RD AVENUE P. O.

According to Mr. S. Allan Taylor, this post was established in 1855, or 1856, by one S. Rothenheim, a carrier for Boyd's post. The stamps he made himself, with a hand-stamp of either brass or metal. He afterwards gummed and trimmed them carefully, and put them up in pill-boxes for sale, on the principle that they got lost and destroyed better that way, and more were the sooner asked for. Street letter-boxes being generally kept at groceries, the usual place for the stamps was the till or cash-drawer, where they got greatly tossed about, and being separate, small, and gummed, they were easily destroyed. The stamp was similar in size and shape to the oval East River post office labels, the inscription being AVE. 3, P. O. S. R.

PAID. The impression was black on green. Copies of this stamp are virtually unattainable; but those of a forgery, of Montreal manufacture, lettered 3RD AVENUE S. R. POST OFFICE, in an oblong, are plentiful.

METROPOLITAN ERRAND AND CARRIER EXPRESS.

For the following particulars I am indebted to Mr. S. Allan Taylor. This post was a swindle, concocted by a carrier of one of the New York expresses, directly after the failure of the incorporated company trading under the above title. The carrier in question stationed some boxes at various stores, and supplied the owners thereof with some stamps, type-set, printed on green glazed paper, and inscribed METROPOLITAN ERRAND & CARRIER EXPRESS, TWO CENTS. The shape was a small oblong.

The carrier and proprietor of this so-called *express* must have delivered the letters himself, at odd times, or after hours, or else they must have been thrown into his employer's box as unpaid. His venture soon "went up."

BENTLEY'S DESPATCH, NEW YORK.

The label usually sold as having been issued by this post is a narrow oblong, lettered BENTLEY'S DESPATCH, in small Roman type, and Madison Square in old English, all within four single thick lines. This imposition is rightly condemned by Mr. Overy Taylor. Mr. Allan Taylor informs me that, having occasion several times in 1858 to visit the Madison Square letter office, he repeatedly saw the stamp then in use; but he has never seen one since.

The stamp was printed in bronze on white, and was evidently a copy of the small "Blood's Penny Post, Philad'a." The style of letters, size, and appearance were all similar.

The name of "H. W. Bentley, Dispatch, 945, Broadway" (which is Madison Square) appears in the *New York Directory* for 1858, but is missing in 1859, and all directories since. Mr. S. A. Taylor says: "In the fall of 1864 I went to look up Bentley, but the Madison Square post office was removed across the street. I inquired of the person in charge about stamps, but she had never seen any. I inquired where Bentley had gone to, but of that she was ignorant. At

this time no stamp was used, letters being simply handstamped MADISON SQUARE LETTER OFFICE, in a transverse oval."

G. CARTER'S DESPATCH.

This post *probably* existed in Philadelphia. The stamp was very plain, bearing, upon a solid ground, G. CARTER'S DESPATCH, with PAID in the centre, the whole enclosed in a linear oblong, with slightly rounded corners. Small oblong, black on white.

In the genuine, the stroke over PAID extends from above the right side of P. to between I and D. Lower stroke, waved, from under right side of P to below centre of D. Thick letters. Forgery is of same depth as original, but longer; in it the stroke above PAID is only over the middle letters, and the lower stroke only extends to under the upright of D.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

France.

As, in all that relates to the fine arts, France is among the foremost, it is but natural that her postage stamps should be distinguished, in an eminent degree, by the correctness of their designs and the delicacy of their execution. Nor is it surprising that, issuing as they do from a country which has proved the home of revolution, they should reflect, to a peculiar extent, the political convulsions which have rent it since their first appearance. The various emissions have been referred to with pride by every writer on postage stamps, as strongly evidencing the value of philately as a teacher of history; and, in fact, so clear from anything like doubt or difficulty are their own annals as to stamps, that the interest which attaches to them is rather historical than philatelic.

The first series saw the light just after the revolution of 1848. The government of Louis Philippe had witnessed the establishment of the cheap postage system in England eight years before, but, notwithstanding the repeated demands of the mercantile community, had taken no steps towards its introduction in France. It was reserved to

the Republic to confer the desired boon on the people, and accordingly, in the autumn of 1848, under the régime of Etienne Arago, the decree was issued, fixing the uniform postal rates at 20 centimes and 1 franc, and ordaining the emission of stamps of those values on the 1st January, 1849. There remained between the issue of the decree and the date indicated for the appearance of the stamps, an interval of only three months in which to prepare the supplies; and but for an accident, the work of engraving the dies and printing off the stock would have been confided to an English firm. Pressed for time, the government applied to Messrs. Bacon & Perkins (or sir Perkins, as the French work has it from which I gather these details*), for an estimate. "Sir Perkins" replied that he would require six months to deliver the stamps, and that his price was one franc per sheet of 240. This being an exorbitant price, and the time demanded exceeding that fixed by the law, the government broke off the negotiations, and looked about for a French engraver. Not many months before, when coin was scarce, the French finance minister had requested the Bank of France to issue a large number of 100-franc notes. The bank could not comply with the request, for it had only one plate—that of the 200-franc notes—and the engraving of a new plate was reckoned to cost a thousand pounds, and eighteen months to a couple of years' labour. In this difficulty recourse was had to an engraver named Hulot, who in *two months* completed the plate of the present 100-franc note, and turned out a sufficient supply. To him the government now addressed itself, and a week before the 1st January, 1849, every post-office in France was provided with stamps, besides which there remained in stock a surplus of eight to ten millions. It was a brilliant success for M. Hulot, and some time after he wrote a letter, containing some interesting details of the way in which he got through his work. "In five weeks," says he, "the matrix was engraved; within an equal period the *ateliers* were fitted up, and the plates, containing the electrotypes casts

for 300 stamps, executed. Lastly, a few days' pressing, with hand-worked presses, producing 1,200,000 stamps per day, enabled me to supply all the French post-offices."

The type, of which the printing was superintended by M. Hulot, was actually engraved by M. Barre, and remains to this day one of the finest productions, if not the

finest, among stamp designs. The profile of the Republic may be described as faultless, and the minor details harmonise in their severity with the classic portrait. "In this instance," as Dr. Magnus well observes, "the obligatory

framework does not distract attention by misplaced florets or ornaments."

Everything is in the best of taste, and the only fault found with the design is based on utilitarian grounds,—the numeral of value is not sufficiently conspicuous. Regarded, however, from an artistic point of view, can it be said that the recently issued 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. Republic are improved by the large corner figures? Does not their presence, on the contrary, constitute a blemish?

Of the two first issued stamps, the 20 c. made its appearance in black, and the one franc in vermilion. The latter is counted among the choicest rarities in a collection, and it is not surprising that it should be so scarce, seeing that it only remained in circulation a single twelvemonth. It was then withdrawn, because the post-office was about to issue the 40 centimes orange, and feared that the two values would be confounded together, on account of their similarity of colour, joined to their identity of design. Pursuant to a post-office circular of December 1, 1849, the stock of vermilion one franc remaining in the provincial offices was collected and returned to Paris; hence the suppression was complete. Probably, in prevision of the issue of 40 centime stamps, for which orders were given in April, the one franc, as early as August, 1849, was printed in carmine. No official document exists authorising the employment of this colour, and a well-informed writer suggests that directions were simply given to the printer to print the

* *La Poste Anecdolique & Pittoresque.* Par Pierre Zaccane. Paris: Achille Faure. 1867.

stamp for the future in a colour with less orange in its composition.* Finally, about the time of the emission of the 40 c., the 1 franc was issued in dark carmine.

The 40 c. orange made its appearance in December, 1849, or January, 1850, and the provincial offices received their supplies during the first ten days of February. This stamp is found in several shades of orange.

By the law of the 15-18th May, 1850, a retrograde step was made in the postal tariff, the rate for a single-weight letter being thereby fixed at 25 centimes. This necessitated the issue of the 25 c. blue, which took place on the 1st July following, blue being chosen to replace the black of the 20 c., because the latter colour was reserved for the postmarks. The change in the rate gave rise to another call on M. Hulot's energies, and led incidentally to the printing off of a supply of a provisional stamp which never was issued. When, after the passage of the law, M. Hulot was requested to prepare a new plate, he was unable to assure the Minister of Finance that it would be ready in time, and it was therefore agreed that he should print a supply of stamps in *blue* from the 20 c. dies, and surcharge them with the figures 25 in *red*. This was accordingly done, and a machine was employed to print "25 c." in red on each stamp, the machine being a wheel, with types of the figures at the extremity of each spoke.† M. Hulot was able, however, to get ready the plate of the new 25 c., and to print a sufficient supply from it within the given time; so the provisionals, not being wanted, were all destroyed, save some very few specimens, of which only three or four are known to exist. Some sheets of the 20 c. *blue* without the surcharge got mixed, it is supposed, with the supplies of the 25 centime blue, as an obliterated 20 c. blue is in the possession of "A Parisian Collector."

On the 12th (or 23rd) July, 1850, the 15 c. green made its appearance, and on the 12th of the following September, the 10 c. brownish yellow, or cinnamon, completed the series. All the values, except the 1 franc

vermilion, but including the embryo 20 c. blue, were reprinted in 1862. The reprints are distinguishable by the lightness and brightness of their tints. The obliterations are of three kinds: (1) a lozenge formed of seven crossed bars—the well-known "grid-iron" mark; (2) a six-pointed star of dots; and (3) a lozenge formed of dots, with the post-office number in the centre. The two latter are also found on the imperial stamps.

On the 2nd December, 1851, occurred the *coup d'état*, which gave to Prince Louis Napoleon the actual supremacy, and enabled him to prepare the way for his assumption of the purple. The profile of Liberty on the stamp was no longer appropriate. The Republic existed in name, but the President was the *de facto* ruler. This state of things is accurately indicated on the presidential stamps. The title, REPUB. FRANC., remains, but the portrait is that of Napoleon. They were, moreover, in their essence,

"provisional" stamps, destined to remain current for but a brief space of time. The 25 c. blue was issued on the 12th August, and the 10 c. cinnamon in the course of September, 1852. The portrait of the Prince-President is by no means a bad one, and it is executed with the same carefulness, and by the same hand, as the profile of Liberty. Beneath the neck appears a minute capital B.—the initial of Barre, the engraver's name. The blue 25 c., like the blue stamps of the Republic and the empire, differs very much in intensity of shade, varying from light to a full dark blue.

After the proclamation of the empire, it became time to think of changing the obsolete inscription on the stamp. REPUB. was taken out, and replaced by EMPIRE, and the metamorphosis was complete. The issue of imperial stamps commenced in August, 1853, with the 10 c. cinnamon—the value used for the local Parisian rate. A few days afterwards, the 1 franc carmine followed, a stamp which is now getting of a certain rarity. Then came, on the 8th September, the 40 c. orange, and on the 3rd November the 25 c. blue. This last had but a brief currency, for it was soon after



* See "An Interesting Embryo," *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vii., p. 85.

† *Idem*.

decided to return to the old rate of 20 centimes, and it is consequently a trifle rarer than its companion low values.

The 20 centimes blue came out on the 1st July, 1854. A universally recognised very dark blue variety of this colour exists. In October, 1854, appeared the 80 centimes carmine, of the same shade as the one franc, which it, in fact, replaced; and on the 4th November of the same year, the 5 centimes green, inaugurating the establishment of low rates for printed matter, was issued. From that time, up to 1860, no further change was made.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—The entire new series is now before us, and, taken altogether, we cannot say we greatly admire it. Naturally, the first thing that strikes us is the colours. They are by no means happily chosen. Some are ineffective, and between others confusion is almost certain to arise. The 10 c. differs only by a shade from the 12 c., and the 25 c. is but a trifle darker than the 40 c. The



full-face portrait is by no means a pleasing one, for the king is represented as if suffering from weak and inflamed eyes; but, with better chosen tints, the effect,

as a whole, might not have been unpleasing. The three highest values are alone satisfactory. Of these the design is here represented. The profile is boldly drawn, and the lettering above being more regular, does not present the bizarre appearance remarkable on the lower values. The latter are of the type illustrated in our August number, of which we here reproduce the engraving. There remain to be noticed the stamps for printed matter, which are of two kinds. There is, first, the 1 centimo, which is composed of four quarter-centimo (or 1 millesima) stamps, arranged after the manner of the Brunswick and Mecklenburg quartets;

and unperforated. The Brunswick stamp has evidently stood as the model, so far as concerns the design, as will be seen from the annexed engraving; the crown (with the necessary modifications) and the transverse oval beneath being reproduced; but the diminutive size of the former has not been copied. It will be noticed that the centimo de peseta contains only four millesimas d'escudo. The 2 and 5 centimos de peseta—of the former of which



we give an engraving—are simply the old types of 1867 (5 and 10 mil.), with the marginal inscriptions re-engraved, or reset. The engraver of the higher values—E. Julia—has written his name

along the edge of the neck of the profile, and also (but in almost undecipherable characters) under the cravat of the full-face portrait. The word COMUNICACIONES, written above the portrait, indicates, as it may be well to remind our readers, that the stamps are intended for telegrams as well as letters. We learn from the *Revista del Correos*, to hand at the last moment, that the new tariff—to give effect to which these stamps are emitted—has given general satisfaction. The same journal states that the finance office, and not the postal department, is responsible for the designs.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—Demiansk (Novgorod).—This stamp has been in existence since 1868. The honour of discovering it belongs to *Le Timbre-Poste*. The impression being defective, it is impossible to guarantee the accuracy of the copy of the arms; but they are sufficiently clear to enable us to perceive their likeness to, if not identity with, the arms on the Novgorod stamp. The two supporters (bears or boars) and the crossed swords are there. The device in the lower half of the shield may be peculiar to the town of Demiansk. The value of this stamp is 3 kopecs; it is printed in black on white blue-coated paper. The four Russian letters—N. G. D. Z.—in the angles signify "Novgorod, Government, Demiansk, *Ematic*"—rural ad-

ministration. The oval inscription bears the same signification.

Melitopol (Taurida).—The stamp described by us last year (p. 97) is here represented. It was withdrawn from circulation because of its asserted resemblance to the imperial stamps; but although the general idea may have been taken from them, there is really nothing in the type to render confusion possible, especially as this stamp was printed in red on white. Per-

haps the true reason, presented as above in a distorted form, is that the imperial arms are reserved for the imperial stamps, hence the local authorities were exceeding their powers in adopting the same for their district emission. Determined not to subject themselves to reproach on the score of trespassing on imperial attributes in the choice of a design for the stamp destined to replace the condemned type, the authorities, sitting, we should think, in solemn council, have issued the annexed uncommon

device. Presumably, the man on horse-back is the rural postman, ambling along very leisurely to the town in the distance, and, positively, the man is smoking! It must be a quiet country round about Meli-

topol, where people are not in the habit of getting nervous if the postman is an hour or two late. As *Le Timbre-Poste* says, "Many queer things have been represented on stamps, but no one expected to see a smoker figuring on them." The stamp on which this postal worshipper of nicotine holds such a conspicuous place is printed in blue on white paper, unperforated.

Boguchar (Voronezh).—Described in our list more than a twelvemonth ago, the stamp for this district only just makes its appearance. It is printed in black on white, and is of the value of 5 kop. As

ПО БОГУЧАРСН
УЪЗДУ 5 КОП.

a postmark, it would pass muster; but as a stamp, it is nowhere.

Egorieff.—The black 3 kop. is used for correspondence for the town, and the blue of the same value for the district of Egorieff.

Kolonna.—The red 5 kop. is used for both town and district letters; the 5 kop. blue serves as an unpaid-letter stamp.

Kiasan.—The blue 2 kop. is the ordinary letter stamp. The gilt 2 kop. is an unpaid-letter stamp, as was also the 2 kop. black, which, by decision of the printer, it superseded.

Schlusselfburg.—Our Brussels contemporary, from whom the three preceding paragraphs are quoted, states that the local post for this district was suppressed in 1866. This proves that the local post system is of earlier date than we had supposed.

CHILI.—Our Brighton contemporary gave, last month, the annexed engravings; one re-

presenting the true type of the adopted envelopes, and the other that of the post card stamp. Our contemporary is positive that this time he has the veritable designs, and he vouches for the values and colours, which we quote; at the same time we cannot help expressing our surprise that the American Bank Note Co. should copy so slavishly our English design for the post card stamp, and the Ceylon envelope design for the envelopes. If, however, as has been stated, the card emanates from Messrs. De La Rue's atelier, then a key to the similarities is obtained. The following are the values and colours quoted:—

POST CARDS.

2 (dos)	centavos	brown.
5 (cinco)	"	purple.

ENVELOPES.

2 (dos)	centavos	brown.
5 (cinco)	"	purple.

10 (dix) centavos	blue.
15 (quince) "	pink.
20 (viente) "	bronze-green.

MAURITIUS.—In our last number we quoted an announcement made by *Le Timbre-Poste*, to the effect that a tenpenny stamp was about to make its appearance, coloured "morocco and gold." A tenpenny stamp has appeared, but its tints, instead of presenting the curious combination which our Belgian contemporary led us to expect, resolve themselves into simple "red-maroon." *The Philatelist* was

the first to obtain and engrave a specimen of the new type, of which we are now able to publish the annexed illustration.

There is something of the eight cents of Ceylon about the general disposition, which shows a departure from the style so long patronised by the island authorities. For ourselves, we prefer the old design, which is prettier and less intricate, to our idea, than the new one. Our contemporary omits to state whether the new comer is watermarked. Envelopes of the values of tenpence and one-shilling-and-eightpence, respectively, are, it appears, really on their way.

PERSIA.—Seven years ago the annexed design figured in these pages as being the type adopted by the Persian government for a series of postage stamps. Then, when no stamps appeared, the report was set down as an unfounded one. Only a few perforated copies of the design which took its place, not a very high one, in the list of rejected essays, were kept. Now Dr. Magnus announces, in the *Gazette des Timbres*, that a series of postage stamps of this almost forgotten type has been issued by the Persian government. He is unable to quote all the values, but he possesses a specimen of one of them, which bears a character in the angles, signifying eight, and is roughly printed, by the typographic method, on very thin paper. The margin having been cut away, Dr. Magnus is unable to say

whether the stamp is, like the essay, perforated or not.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Our Brighton contemporary gives us the information of a forthcoming new issue of our shilling adhesives, after the annexed type. Our readers, whilst perceiving at a glance that it differs from the existing design, may be puzzled to discover in what the difference consists. It is simply

in the impression of the corner letters and registration number in colour on white, instead of in white on colour as at present. The change is slight, but the effect in lightening the appearance of the stamp considerable. Hitherto only the four low values— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 2d.—have had white corners, but all the higher values are now to receive them, and the dies are to be retouched. After the shilling the turn of the threepence, it is said, will come.

JAMAICA.—We have to thank *The Philatelist* for the first intelligence of a welcome accession to the ranks in the shape of a halfpenny Jamaica stamp, of the design of which our readers will be able to judge from the annexed engraving, which renders description unnecessary. The impression is in maroon on white paper. Our contemporary does not say what watermark (if any) the paper contains. The stamp is engraved by De La Rue & Co., who appear to have the monopoly of the supply of colonial issues.

FINLAND.—The polyglot post card has made its appearance. The inscription, CORRESPONDENCE CARD, in Finnish, Swedish, and Russian, is arranged in three lines, with a different type for each line. The instructions at foot are dealt with in the same manner. The 8 pen. stamp is maintained at the left-hand corner, and the frame is of the same pattern as on the preceding issue. As before, the card is of a pale buff tint, and the inscriptions, &c., in deep green. The reverse of the card is bordered in the same style as the front, but the pattern is interrupted at the

top and on either side by an inscription signifying that the space within the frame is reserved for the communication, for which ten dotted lines are provided.

UNITED STATES.—A correspondent, residing at Lowell, Mass., sends us a cutting from *The Boston Advertiser*, relative to the new postal card. It reads as under:—

The new postal card will be made from dies cut in hardened steel for surface printing, a novel and heretofore considered impossible mode of engraving. The lines, instead of being sunk, are raised like those of an ordinary wood-cut, so that the plate may be used in the same manner as type in any printing-press. The completed card is three inches by five and one-eighth inches in size, made from a fine quality of card-board, and is of a light buff colour. A border of scroll-work runs around the edge, while in the upper right-hand corner is a very handsome stamp, consisting of a head of liberty encircled with stars and surrounded with elliptical scroll work. The denomination is one cent, and the colour of the work a rich velvet brown. The inscription is simply UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD. WRITE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE, THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER. Below are ruled lines, while the reverse is blank.

ROUMANIA.—In the annexed type the bearded portrait of the last series of stamps is found in conjunction with the old frame of the 50 bani. Only a small unperforated supply of this stamp, in very pale blue and red, and of the 10 bani, in ultramarine, has been printed off to meet the immediate requirements of the post-office, the stock of the new series not having yet come to hand from Paris.

DUTCH WEST INDIES.—We learn on good authority that postage stamps will shortly be emitted for the Dutch possessions of Surinam, Curaçoa, &c. They will bear the portrait of King William III., and will closely resemble the design of the present series for the mother-country, differing principally in the angles. The values will be 2½ c., 3 c., 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., and 50 c. A contemporary says that they will not be gummed, probably because in hot climates stamps frequently get stuck together.

FRANCE.—It is nearly two months since the new 80 centime rose, with profile of Liberty, made its appearance, without any preliminary flourish, at Paris, and it has since been followed by the 30 c. brown (light and dark). The expected large and unmistakable figures

are not to be found. The numerals are somewhat larger than the old ones, but they are rather clumsily squeezed into the old border, and the word *POSTES* and the c's, by which it is flanked, are in consequence made smaller. Altogether the compromise is not a very satisfactory one.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *Gazette des Timbres* presents us with an engraving of a watermark, discovered on a copy of a Sydney stamp, on laid paper. The engraving being better executed than many of the others, enables us to at once recognize the watermark as forming the summit of the crown, surmounting the medallion of Britannia, the old ordinary watermark on English foolscap hand-made paper, and is not peculiar to any official paper, as suggested by the editor.

ECUADOR.—M. Moens is of opinion that the one real, described by us last month from *La Gazette des Timbres*, is a humbug. The editor of the latter journal, however, is not shaken in his belief in its genuineness; and in the last number he states, that prior to the issue of the new type the old 1 rl. yellow was printed in "olive-yellow," on bluish paper, as also the ½ real, but the paper of the latter is of a lighter tint than that of the 1 real.

DENMARK.—*Holte*.—The first local stamp for Holte has gone the way of all things, and its successor is now before us in the shape of the subjoined type, which certainly has an original look about it. It is coloured chrome-green on white, is perforated, and was issued on the 15th September last.

JAPAN.—The 5 tenpoes (or *sen*, to use the correct orthography), to the rumoured existence of which we referred last month, turns out to be actually in circulation, of the same type as the other values, printed green, and perforated.

AUSTRIA has just issued a newspaper band, about 15 inches long, by 2½ in. wide. Along either edge, for a distance of nine inches, runs a broad orange-yellow stripe, and a little beyond the middle of the band is an impression, in orange yellow, from the die of the 2 kr. adhesive.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The ninepenny stamp came over by the last mail printed a reddish-lilac. The copy from which we describe is postmarked Aug. 12, '72. There is no change in the design.

NEW ZEALAND.—An entirely new series of stamps, of which the values will be 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s., is said to be in preparation.

BERMUDA.—The *Philatelist* states that a threepenny stamp may shortly be expected, intended for payment of postage between Bermuda and North America.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The same authority says that the threepenny stamp for this dependency will be issued dark chocolate.

SWITZERLAND.—*Rigi Scheideck.*—The stamp of this hotel is now printed bright blue.

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—III.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

(Continued from page 126.)

FOLLOWING the chronological order, we next come to the first series of stamps which were issued for prepaying the postage on journals. Previously to the issue of these stamps certain other stamps had been issued, for the purpose of being affixed to foreign newspapers coming into the country; but these stamps represent rather a fiscal tax than any additional postage rate,* and are scarcely admissible in a list of postage stamps, from which they would certainly be excluded under Mr. Overy Taylor's definition of a postage stamp. The collection of them has, however, found favour with amateurs, and will probably continue to do so, from the strong relationship they bear to a postage stamp proper. A full account of the issues and various values is to be found in this magazine (vol. ix., page 7), to which we have nothing to add, except that the 1 krenzer blue and the 2 kr. brown are still in use.

JOURNAL STAMPS.—FIRST SERIES.

Authentic and original copies of the two

* [Baron A. de Rothschild considers them as forming an ill-disguised increase of the postal rates, in contravention of treaty obligations.—Ed.]

higher values—the yellow and the rose Mercuries—are so scarce that it is impossible to state whether any or what varieties exist. The specimens which we have examined are invariably upon thinnish hand-made paper. A copy—in our possession—

of the yellow, affixed to a Vienna bourse list of the 23rd May, 1856, and bearing a dated obliteration of the 24th, is also on thin hand-made paper. As none others were printed after that date, it is not probable that any issue took place on thick paper, similar to that employed for the latter portion of the first general series of stamps, and of which we find specimens among the blue Mercuries. Specimens of these latter stamps are also found on ribbed paper, similar to that described p. 126. The variations in shade among the blue stamps are considerable, passing through every gradation, from light grey blue to full blue.

As has been seen by the despatch quoted at page 6, vol. ix. of this magazine, the yellow Mercury was, on the 21st March, 1856, superseded by a scarlet stamp of the same type, the rose having been suppressed previously. For some time doubts existed as to the authenticity of this stamp, it being regarded by many as a fancy impression. Such doubts may, however, be considered as extinguished. Authentically postmarked specimens are to be found in the collections of Mr. Philbrick, and of M. P——l, of Brussels, leaving no shadow of a doubt but that the stamp was actually employed. It is printed on thick paper.

Classification.

1851. I.—Thin paper.

1 journal	Prussian blue, pale blue, dull blue (shades).
10 journals	yellow.
50 "	rose.

II.—Ribbed paper.

1 journal	light dull blue.
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III.—Thick paper.

1 journal	dull blue, Prussian blue.
1856. 10 journals	scarlet.

SECOND GENERAL SERIES.

The change of the monetary system in

Austria in the year 1858 necessitated a corresponding change in the postage stamps. The florin being no longer divided into 60 kr., but into 100 kr., and its value being also slightly reduced, exact counterparts of the former values could not be found in the new coinage. For a description of the series we refer our readers to Mr. Overy Taylor's paper in this magazine (vol. viii., p. 170), to which we have but little to add. There are two or three shades of the 2 kr.

yellow, the 5 kr. red, the 10 kr. brown, and the 15 kr. blue; but they depend almost entirely on a variation in the depth of the same colour, save in the 5 kr. red and the 10 kr. brown, where the first is to be found in bright brick-red and vermillion, and the second in reddish brown and in dull brown. The 2 kr. orange is rare even obliterated, and (rare)³ unused, if we may so arithmetically denote the mode adopted by M. Horpin, when describing the degree of rarity of a stamp. M. Berger Levrault, in his catalogue, gives 1860 as the date of issue of this shade of the 2 kr. We have no means of verifying or disproving that date, but we doubt its correctness. The rarity of the stamp is rather an argument for a fortuitous impression in darker colours, than for an issue to which any date can be affixed.

The issue is printed on wove paper, thickly covered with adhesive matter, and is perforated 15.*

Classification :

1858. 2 kreuzer Naples yellow (shades) light chrome-yellow, orange.
 3 " black.
 5 " vermillion, brick-red (shades).
 10 " light amber-brown and reddish-brown.
 15 " Prussian blue and light ditto.
 Journal stamp, Prussian blue (shades).

* The St. Andrew's crosses are still found in this series, but the disposition is reversed, instead of being in colour on a white ground, the ground is coloured and the cross white. But very few amateurs have made collections of these fillings-up, which fall under no possible definition of a postage stamp, or any other stamp, except one representing nothing.

1859. 3 kreuzer sea green, varying in shades.
 Journal stamp, lilac (shades).

THIRD GENERAL SERIES.

This series, issued on the 1st January, 1861, presents no varieties, except such as arise from varying depths of the same colours. The values are similar to those in the preceding series, and probably the sole reason for the change was to bring in a series of envelopes of similar design, which now appeared for the first time in Austria. The stamps are printed on white wove paper, and perforated 14.*

The series of envelopes was manufactured in two sizes, the large and the ordinary; for though entire copies of the 25 and the 30 kreuzer are not known, yet, as all the other values, including the 35 kreuzer, have been found in the large size, it may be supposed that the entire series was issued in that size. The paper employed was thin, soft wove, and unsurfaced. Copies, however, of some of the values in the ordinary size are to be found on thicker paper, surfaced.



The whole series of envelopes was reprinted in 1866, in the ordinary size; but the reprints may readily be distinguished from the originals by observing the difference in the form of the two side flaps. In the reprints there is, also, on one or other of the flaps a watermark, consisting of one or more letters, or parts of letters, composing the words BRIEF COUVERTS.

Classification :

I.—General series, perf. 14.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2 kreuzer | Naples yellow, light, medium, and full. |
| 3 " | green, light green. |
| 5 " | vermillion, brick-red, and light ditto |
| 10 " | reddish brown (shades). |
| 15 " | Prussian blue and light ditto. |

II.—Journal stamp, imperforate.

(Value 1 kr.) grey-lilac, grey.

* In addition to the reprints of the second and third series, made in 1866, of which a description is given in this magazine (vol. viii., p. 170), the adhesive letter stamps of these two series were again reprinted sometime last year. These reprints are distinguishable from the others by means of the perforations, which in the original issue are 14, in the first reprint 12, and in the reprints of last year 11.

III.—Envelopes.

3 kreuzer	green, light green.
5 "	vermilion, brick-red, and light ditto.
10 "	red-brown.
15 "	Prussian blue and light ditto.
20 "	orange (shades).
25 "	warm brown.
30 "	violet (shades).
35 "	pale Vandyck brown (shades).

THE NEW JAPANESE CURRENCY.

REPRINTED FROM "THE POSTAGE-STAMP REPORTER."

THE Japanese propose to revolutionize their currency and financial system, and, in fact, have already begun the change. The Japanese embassy, which was in this country and in England a year ago or more, had charge of this matter. At first they were inclined to adopt the English system, this seeming to them better than any other which they examined in Europe; but when they reached the United States, and became acquainted with our system, their views were changed, although the English sought earnestly to prevent this. The Japanese commission finally decided to adopt our decimal system, taking our dollar as their unit, and immediately took measures to put it in operation. Part of the commissioners went home to change the coinage, and the others remained here to superintend the printing of bills and bonds like ours.* This work, we believe, is not yet finished, but the coinage has been so far changed that new coin is already circulating in Japan. An article in *The New York Times* describes this new Japanese coinage as follows:—

"The lowest denomination of their gold coin is one *yen*, equal to one dollar. There are then gold coins of the denomination of two, five, ten, and twenty *yens*. The silver coin is called *sen*, the denominations being five, ten, twenty, and fifty *sens*, the lower denomination being equal to five cents of our currency. The copper coinage is one *sen*, equal to the one-hundredth part of one *yen*;

* [That this work is not confided to American firms only, is evidenced by the following telegram, which we cut from a daily paper:—

"Paris, 16th Oct.

"The Minister of Japan and the Second Japanese Minister of Finance have left for Frankfort, in order to conclude a new arrangement with the house of Dondorf & Co., for the fabrication of Japanese paper money."—ED.]

one-half *sen*, equal to the two-hundredth part of one *yen*; and one *rin*, equal to the one-thousandth part of one *yen*. These low denominations are absolutely necessary in that land of plentiful commodities and cheap labour."

NOTES ON THE
EARLY STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

SINCE the announcement regarding the discovery of a postmarked specimen of the 81 paras, which appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for last month, and also in *Le Timbre-Poste*, we have had an opportunity of examining the specimen in question, and we find that it has been wrongly described as being on *laid* paper.* It is on plain wove paper, not showing any *vergeures*. In truth, a further examination of several specimens of these early Moldavian stamps has led us to modify our opinions in so far as that the *vergeures* on the paper must be regarded as a crucial test of genuineness. A magnificent unsevered pair of the 27 paras are now in the collection of Mr. Philbrick, in which the *vergeures* are scarcely discernible; and in our own copy they are very faint and far apart. Further, in a lot of about twenty postmarked specimens of 54 paras, all of the Magnus type I., we found a copy on paper in which there is not the shadow of an appearance of *vergeures*, and which may be regarded as being plain wove.

From these considerations, therefore, it seems that a test depending upon the paper employed must be abandoned, and that we shall be compelled to seek for the true test of genuineness in the *type*.

All the copies of the 27 paras, now numbering seven or eight, which have been yet exhumed, and all the copies of the 54 and 108 paras of the Magnus type I., are postmarked, and no specimens of these stamps have yet been found postmarked or obliterated with any stamp other than the ordinary

* On more than one occasion we have had to express our admiration of the great acuteness of Dr. Magnus. On the specimen being shown to him, he at once discovered that the supposed *vergeures* were due to the *vergeures* on the paper of the letter to which it was attached.

postal handstamp, consisting of two concentric circles, within the upper part of which is the name of the town, and in the lower part MOLDOVA. Figures within the inner circle, in moveable types, show the day of the month and the number of the month.

We have examined some hundreds of specimens of the first type of the 40 and 80 paras, of the second issue, and we find them obliterated with two kinds of postmarks, and two only. The one is the postal handstamp mentioned above, and the other is a stamp of various forms, with the word FRANCO in the upper part, and the name of the town below. This latter stamp continued in use for some time, and its use is evidently subsequent to that of the circular postal handstamp. It is therefore clear to us that no obliterating stamp, properly so called, was in use during the continuance of the first series, but was adopted only after that the second series had been in use for some considerable time; as out of every hundred specimens probably one half will be found bearing the circular obliteration. This circular stamp—as a mode of obliteration, gave place, as we have said, to an obliterating stamp of various shapes. Each town appears to have had a shape peculiar to itself; but, invariably, whatever be the shape of the stamp, the word FRANCO is in the upper part and the name of the town underneath. Thus the obliterating mark for Jassy is an oval, in the upper part of which is FRANCO, and in the lower JASSY. Galatz has two marks, the one like a flag, the words being in two lines, following the waves, and separated by a wavy line; and the other is an oval with “No. 2” in the centre of it. Berlat is also flag-shaped. Botuschani is a simple parallelogram, the words being in straight lines, separated by a line. Baceu is an oval, with the ends cut off in a curve, and the words separated from one another by an ornamental line. The designs of the stamps belonging to Fokshani, Pietra, &c., are more complicated, and more difficult to describe, but they all tend to strengthen our proposition. It may be remarked that the impressions of the circular postal handstamp are most commonly in thin greenish blue ink. It was not till the FRANCO obliterating

stamps came in that we find obliterations in carmine, vermilion, violet, &c.

We will now ask our readers to turn to the sixth volume of this magazine, where they will find a translation of Dr. Magnus's valuable monograph on the Moldavian stamps, as it appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste*. This monograph was subsequently reprinted in the form of a pamphlet, and was then enlarged by a description of the 27 paras just discovered by M. Moens. No reprints, no forgeries,* no fancy impressions, no varieties of type of this latter stamp are known, and as we have before said, every specimen yet discovered is marked with the circular postal handstamp. But no less than five varieties of the 54, 81, and 108 paras will be found there described. Of these we have never heard, much less seen any specimens—other than those of the type No. I. of the 54 and 108 paras, and the 81 paras just discovered by M. Moens—obliterated with the circular handstamp, or with any of the obliterating stamps which we consider superseded the use of the circular handstamp as a mark of obliteration, and continued in service throughout the rest of the existence of the first type of the second series. We admit to having seen specimens of some of the other types, bearing an obliterating mark, but not a genuine one, as we believe, or one which we have been able to find among the true marks.

Referring now to the engravings and the description of types I. of the 54 and 108 paras, our readers cannot fail to be struck with the great family likeness (as remarked by Dr. Magnus, vol. vi., p. 52), which exists between them, especially in the principal features—the ears, the nostrils, and the cheek-bones. The opening of the horn, and the dotted shading should also be noticed. On comparing these features with those portrayed on the 27 paras, the same similarity exists, especially in the nostrils, the cheek-bones, and the triangular shape of the ears. It is true that

* [Our esteemed correspondent is in error in supposing that the 27 paras stamp has never been forged: we had the forgeries sent us at a high price in the summer of 1871: they came from an honourable source; and before they had got distributed our correspondent discovered and informed us of their spurious character, and they were all returned to him. We have never met with any other.—ED.]

the ears are rather more open in the 27 paras, and the nostrils are a trifle less parenthetical, but the likeness is very striking.

If we now compare these with the newly-found 81 paras, the same family likeness still exists: the same cheek-bones, the same triangular ears, the same parenthetical nostrils.

On further comparing this 81 paras with the types described by Dr. Magnus, it is found to belong to the 3rd type, the similarity of which to the 54 and 108 is also remarked, at page 52, by Dr. Magnus.

It, therefore, appears to us that the only types belonging to the stamps of the first series which are genuine, are the following:—

27 paras	the single type
54 „	1st type
81 „	3rd type
108 „	1st type.

With regard to the *second* series, we agree with what Mr. Overy Taylor stated in his paper on these stamps. That the first type of the 5, 40, and 80 paras is good, there cannot be a doubt. The second type of the 5 paras, and of the 40 and 80 paras, is much more than doubtful, having never been seen obliterated, and the 3rd type of the 80 paras has, we believe, never been seen with an authentic obliteration.

THE "WEST TOWN" LOCAL.

In 1859 the "West Town Boarding School," an institution located in West Town township, Chester Co., Pa., issued a local postage stamp for the prepayment of the carriage of all outgoing letters between the institution and the nearest post-office, which is located at Street Road station, on the West Chester and Philadelphia railroad, a distance of a mile and a half. The income derived from the sale of these stamps is applied to the support of a daily stage-line between the station and the school. They are sold at two cents each, no value, however, being expressed on the stamp.

The design consists simply of the name WEST TOWN, surrounded by a wide ornamental border. They are printed in bronze, by the lithographic process, on white paper, and in sheets which are composed of 225 labels. The annual consumption is about 10,000, or

nearly 130,000 since they were first issued. The stamp remains in use at the present time, and no letter is forwarded from the institution to the post-office unless it bears one. The customary manner of affixing it is to place it on the back of the letter, in the centre, it thus serving the purpose of a seal.*

Counterfeits of the stamp are in existence, printed on coloured paper, the genuine being on white.

This school was established in 1799, and is intended exclusively for the benefit of the youth of the religious society of Friends, none but children of members of that body being allowed to attend it. The number of pupils average 225.

[The foregoing is an account which has been furnished us by an American correspondent, and it forms a striking commentary on an offer made to our publishers, some weeks since, by an American collector, of a pair of West Town stamps at *six shillings* each !

Our correspondent sends us a couple of these stamps, uncut, to exemplify the mode of printing. The under one of the two is printed—relatively to its companion—wrong side up. The lettering is rather rough, and the stamps are smaller than those generally sold as West Town in the packets, though it may be that there have been two emissions of a similar type.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. H. CARR, Dublin.—We certainly prefer the accepted construction of the word *philately*. All sciences are endless. There is always something to discover, clear up, or classify. But philately signifies a love of that which exempts from a tax or charge; and therefore, as at present understood, it indicates, at any rate indirectly, the preference felt by collectors for the little rectangles which exempt the letters to which they are attached from a charge.

X. X. X.—The English penny red on blue paper, fine perforations, is known and catalogued.—We do not chronicle either railway or fiscal stamps.—The Tuscany watermark has been duly noticed; the envelope for the French soldiers in Switzerland, the variety of the 3 kop. Russian, and other varieties of postage stamps described by you have all been treated of in these pages, of which we must beg to recommend to you the more careful perusal.

* In *The Stamp-Collector's Guide* (Meriden, Ct.), for March, 1871, a brief notice of this stamp will be found, inaccurate in several particulars, one of which is the date of issue, it being given as 1852, instead of 1839.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

A DESULTORY REVIEW.

BY THE EDITOR.

TEN years ago stamp-collecting was a very different thing from what it is now, and the contrast forms the pride of every true philatelist. Then the pursuit was in its veriest infancy, unchristened, save with the sarcastic appellation of "timbromania;" yet very much talked about. The daily papers on both sides of the channel made frequent allusions to it; *The Saturday Review*, in its jaunty way, picked it to pieces; *All the Year Round* praised it; the French play-writers joked upon it; and notwithstanding the sneers of the utilitarians, all the world and his wife went on collecting stamps because it was the fashion to do so. At the present time the press troubles itself but rarely about collectors. To the general public—the outsiders—the pursuit is a mystery; and, in fact, it is so far ignored by those Philistines that, as a rule, they will gravely shake their heads at you, and assure you, in the most positive manner, that collecting is quite a thing of the past. And they are right in one sense, for to the harum-scarum style of amassing stamps, which at the outset was called collecting, has succeeded a careful and scientific method, which lends to the work a charm sufficient to fascinate the attention of ripe scholars and earnest students. Men of all ages and of all professions find in the study and comparison of stamps an interesting and instructive recreation, simply because of the concentrated attention which such an occupation demands. Were it a mere question of sticking stamps on certain given squares the work would be too trivial; but the faculties of observation and classification are called into constant play; and though the mind may, therefore, be almost as much engaged as during the day, yet the change yields repose. Herein lies the strength of collecting, and herein the explanation of the fact that ten years after its inauguration it retains its popularity. If the public knows nothing about the progress of collecting, it is simply because philatelists have literary organs of their own; and also because, as we apprehend, they do not often

take the trouble of showing their albums to persons who cannot understand them.

We may be told that these observations are truisms, but if so they are truisms of a very pleasant sort, and may permissibly be repeated in preface of a review of the events of a year which closes the first decade of stamp collecting. They are affirmations of facts on which an old collector cannot refrain from dwelling with a certain fondness, for they represent the triumph of a pursuit once denounced as ephemeral, and enable him to look forward confidently to its further progress and consolidation.

Passing now to an examination of the chief occurrences of the twelvemonth, we come first of all to the literary ventures by which it has been marked, among which we willingly accord the first place to the publication of *The Philatetical Journal*. It has proved itself a most able coadjutor in the study of stamps, and its conductors have been animated throughout by a desire to serve the best interests of the science. Fully convinced, as we are, that there "is room enough for all," we wish our contemporary good speed, and regret the momentary stoppage which has unfortunately resulted from the illness of its esteemed editor. We trust also that before long we may be favoured with his long-promised essay on "Perforations," and his "History and Catalogue of Postal Reprints." Next in importance to the Birmingham journal comes the *Gazette des Timbres*, edited by Dr. Magnus. If we do not place it on the same level with the former, it is simply because it treats not only of postage stamps, but of a crowd of fiscals, in which we trust it will be long before English philatelists take an interest. In as far as the postal section is concerned, it is needless to say that a paper edited by Dr. Magnus can hardly be surpassed. His assumption of the editorial chair is a subject for congratulation, and we doubt not but that the *Gazette* will render even greater service than did the defunct *Timbrophile*. Among minor lights may be reckoned *The Stamp-Collector's Journal*, which after shining through a few numbers merged its existence in that of *The American Journal of Philately*, a magazine which has fairly held its place

throughout the year, and, if we may judge by the last two numbers, has decided on making a worthy effort to attain a higher position as an authority in philatelic matters. Across the Atlantic *The Canadian Philatelist* has appeared, disappeared, and reappeared, we trust, for good. As there are certainly a great many collectors in the Dominion, the journal should meet with wide support; and its existence will, we hope, prove an incitement to philatelic students in that part of the world to make public the results of their labours. To the foregoing might be added the names of half a dozen journalettes published in the United States. These journals form an index of the popularity of collecting, and contain occasional items of interest, but they are too small to do much real good. The old-established journals, consisting of *Le Timbre-Poste* (a magazine of exactly the same age as the *S. C. M.*) and *The Philatelist*, have maintained their reputation as standard authorities; and we trust we may be permitted to claim, without vanity, that we have fulfilled the promise, made a year since, that we would sustain the excellence of this, the oldest established of English philatelic organs.

The issue of fresh editions of the popular prepared albums has occurred almost as a matter of course, and forms a faithful indication of the sustained interest in the pursuit. Moens', Stafford Smith's, and Oppen's, all have their champions, and do their work as aids to collectors who are unwilling or unable to arrange their possessions in blank albums. In like manner, the leading dealers continue to publish their price catalogues, which, if they do not contain a reference to the minor varieties, are tolerably complete as to the normal ones. To the list of descriptive catalogues, no addition has to be made, save that of M. Moens' partly-issued work. Among English publications, Dr. Gray's catalogue still retains its supremacy, and we trust the new year will bring a new edition of this old favourite. Mr. Pemberton holds out the promise of a catalogue which shall include all known varieties, and we earnestly hope that this promise will be realised at no distant date. Meanwhile, Dr. Magnus has commenced, in his journal, the publication of a similar work, but it must

inevitably take a long time to collect, in this way, sufficient "copy" to make a separate volume.

The general bent of study this year has been in conformity with the tenets of the "French" or advanced school; even the papers nominally intended for the guidance of beginners showing a considerable tendency towards the admission of varieties of secondary importance. This same tendency has also been manifested, to a certain extent, even by our American cousins, heretofore the determined opponents of the recognition of perforation, paper, and watermarks. On the other hand, it is our duty to notice the occurrence of a certain reaction in this country against the too great extension of the boundaries of the science.

The gains of the year, in the matter of philatelic knowledge, are by no means unimportant. The emissions of the Dominican Republic, Turkey, Hawaii, La Guaira, and Trinidad, have been ably analysed in the pages of our contemporaries, and in our own the uncertainties which surrounded the first issues of Moldavia have been definitely cleared up, considerable progress has been made in the classification of the United States locals, and a commencement has been made of the history of the little-known Californian emissions. These are a few of the leading studies of the year, to which must be added the gibbeting of forged stamps, by Mr. Atlee, in *The Philatelist*, and the exposures of the dealers in forgeries, which have appeared in our own and our Birmingham contemporary's columns. The campaign against the roguish dealers has, we have reason to believe, been attended with the happiest results. That the good thus done may be made permanent, we appeal to our friends to do their best to increase the circulation of the respectable journals, and we propose to set apart a column every month, in which to advertise constantly the names of all dealers who are, or have been, discovered to be engaged in the sale of forged stamps.

The attention paid to the wants of that very numerous class which is composed of young or inexperienced collectors, is a subject for congratulation. The "Papers for Beginners" which are being published in these

pages, initiated the movement, and have been favoured with far wider approval, and greater consideration, than their author had anticipated. Dr. Magnus, on the other side of the water, has begun the issue of a similar series of papers for the benefit of French collectors, written in that attractive style of which he is so peculiarly master, and *The American Journal of Philately*, we are happy to see, has commenced the publication of "Notes for Novices," and "Papers for Purchasers." These introductions to *la haute philatélie* are certainly needed, and they form a suitable foundation for papers of a more erudite character, such as the "Notes for Collectors" which appear in these pages, or the *Catalogue Raisonné* of Dr. Magnus.

We have dwelt thus lengthily on the contents of the journals, as it is principally thereby that the activity of the philatelic world can be gauged. The Philatelic Society of London has not fulfilled the expectations at one time entertained, that it would become the medium of communication between collectors in all parts of the world, and of all shades of opinion. Its failure to do so may have arisen from the fact, that the journals have always offered all needful facilities for the publication of intelligence, and the discussion of disputed questions. We had certainly hoped to see established branch societies in all the leading provincial towns, but we are now convinced that this cannot be. Whether, however, a general congress, or conference, might not be feasible is another affair. We are inclined to think that one might be held next year in Paris—say, in the month of August or September—the exact date to be fixed later on; and we purpose inviting such of our readers as may desire to be present thereat to inform us in advance. We take leave to recommend our *confrères*, should their opinion be the same as ours with regard to a congress, to adopt a similar course, as when once the number of intending visitors be approximately ascertained, arrangements might be made for putting the scheme into a definite shape.

Turning now to the emissions of the year, we find a very varied list before us, in which the series of Fiji and Japan hold the most prominent places. These strange visitors

surprise us less than they would have done a few years back. Postage stamps have been issued for so many outlandish places, that no new emission, however secluded or uncivilised its place of origin, excites an amount of attention equal to that which it would have received when this magazine was in its second or third volume, and this is the natural result of a close and constant acquaintance with stamps, and of the regular apparition of novelties. The Japanese labels, however, so curious in their design and in all their details, could not make their entrance into our albums without evoking the display of an unusual degree of interest; and the Fijian stamps, though undistinguished by any device connecting them pointedly with the native islands, are valued from the striking evidence they bring of the march of civilisation in Polynesia.

Next in importance to the foregoing come the issues of the British colonies. Western Australia has added to its attractive designs one yet more elegant and more finely executed—that of the threepence fawn. Our very old acquaintances, the Cingalese stamps, with value in pence, after passing through various editions and changes of colour, perforation, &c., have been at length set aside, their homely designs being succeeded by those of a new set, with value in *cents*. The new Cingalese are of the usual De La Rue type, handsome and delicate; but whilst admitting their excellence, it is impossible to avoid regretting that they should give fresh proof of the too great uniformity of Messrs. De La Rue's fabrications. In their designs the changes are rung *ad infinitum* on the arrangement of the border, but that is all! The fancy portrait remains always the same, always diademed, always facing the left. The engravers, however, are perhaps less to blame than their patrons, the colonial officials, who sacrifice all other considerations to a love of cheapness, combined with a show of loyalty.

The Sierra Leone set forms a welcome reinforcement to the hitherto solitary postal representative of that colony, even though the designs of the new comers be less graceful than those of the majority of the stamps "launched" by the same firm.

Prince Edward Island has given us a new series, composed of types of unequal merit and inferior execution; and the emission was hardly completed, before the appearance of a forgery of one of the values—the four cents—which surprised everyone, from its close imitation of the genuine; added to this, a fictitious value—the 10 c.—was concocted, and palmed off on the cautious editor of *Le Timbre-Poste*. When we have mentioned the issue of a halfpenny stamp for Jamaica, and of a tenpenny adhesive and two envelopes for Mauritius, we have completed the list of important additions to our colonial series.

Among the other notabilities of the year, we must not forget the stamps of the Portuguese Indies, which, in their exceeding roughness and crudeness, carry us back to the time when colonial first emissions were nearly always of native manufacture. That they will soon be succeeded by a better executed type is only a reasonable expectation. The Persian stamps, referred to at greater length in another part of this number, are deserving of "honourable mention"; but whether they really are "this year's birds," remains to be seen. The type, at any rate, is one with which we have been long acquainted.

In Europe, there has been no lack of new emissions. To begin at home, our own country has issued a new sixpenny, of a design which is at once novel and effective; France has begun to employ a new type; Holland has produced a handsome series, graced by an unusually exact portrait of the king; Spain also, after months of hesitation, has adopted a type containing a full-face, and by no means complimentary portrait of its new monarch; Russia and Finland have brought out post cards; Norway has started a fresh design for its adhesives; Roumania has obtained a set of stamps from Paris, copied, in all respects, from the current French; Germany has come into the field with two series, the second differing from the first only in the size of the arms; and last, but not least, a number of Russian locals have been issued or discovered. The interest felt in these stamps is considerable, and is fully warranted by their unquestionably official character, as also by the peculiar circumstances which govern their emission.

They offer a more tempting field to the collector of locals than do the issues of the American private offices, as there are no reprints, forgeries, or bogus issues to confuse the student, and there is hardly a design on the Russian stamps which does not possess a history of its own.

If from the past we turn to the future, we find an emission for Burmah among the probabilities. The ambassadors from the emperor of that remote country are now making the tour of the European courts, and it will surprise us if the postal service in civilized parts does not make as great an impression on them as it evidently did on the Japanese envoys. Among other "may-be's" the issue of a new set for Servia should be counted; the South African republic also owes us a new and improved design; Siberia has been talked of as likely to issue stamps; and the Spanish possessions will be supplied with a fresh portrait of the king.

Our review would be incomplete did we not mention the increased favour with which telegraph stamps have been regarded. Due recognition has been accorded to them as twin-brethren to the postal emissions, and one of our contemporaries has commenced the publication of a catalogue of them, which includes the labels of private companies. For our own part, we feel inclined to restrict ourselves to the more interesting and better accredited government emissions; and to these we purpose shortly turning our attention.

We have now only left to us the pleasant duty of wishing our readers A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

THE POST OFFICE PAVILION OF THE MOSCOW RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION.

ON the 11th June last there was opened at Moscow, on the occasion of the fêtes given in honour of Peter the Great, a grand retrospective exhibition, comprising among others a post-office pavilion. This pavilion (says the *Nord*, whence we borrow the following interesting details) was situated in the second garden of the Kremlin, and was of very elegant construction. It contained all the objects connected with the

postal service, and gave a very exact idea of the development of the postal relations from the reign of Peter the Great down to the present time. Nowhere does the service offer so much variety as in Russia, where the mail is transported by train, in covered carts, on sledges, in steam-boats, in canoes, on horse-back, ox-back, and camel-back, and even by carriers on foot in places where no other animal than man could push his way. With this idea, the postal administration got together a very remarkable collection of pictures and groups, representing the different methods by which letters are conveyed.

Besides this there was a most complete collection of pictures illustrating the gradual spread of the postal system from the days of Peter the Great, when regular communications were only established between Moscow and a few towns in the west, down to the present year, when the network of postal communications envelops the entire extent of the vast empire of Russia, from its borders on the European side, right into the heart of Asia and the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Other pictures and engravings contained views of the principal streams and mountains showing the points at which the post crosses, and among the most interesting of the groups modelled in wax was one which represented the passage of the mails through the transcaucasian defiles. There was also a collection of carrier-pigeons, and a model of the post-cart of the extreme north, representing a postal sledge harnessed by dogs and reindeer.

The postal exhibition contained, moreover, the most complete collection of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, together with the different receptacles for the correspondence, such as valises, sacks, &c., not to mention that the actual sorting and re-forwarding of the letters was conducted in public in an office worked by employés of the Moscow post-office, much to the satisfaction both of the exhibitors and the visitors, the latter being thus able to receive and forward their correspondence without quitting the ground.

Several foreign post-offices deemed it an honour, on the anniversary of the birth of Peter the Great, to exhibit their models, &c.,

by the side of those of the Russian administration. Thus the postal departments of Germany, Austria, Sweden, and the United States forwarded their maps, plans, and representations of all their postal *matériel*, thus enabling the public (the Russian employés included) to make useful and judicious comparisons on the extent of the development of the postal service in different countries.

WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

(Second Article.)

I HAVE read with much interest the replies which have appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelist* to my inquiry, "What is a Postage Stamp?" and as I believe it to be of importance that we should arrive at some clear and logical definition of the term, I take leave to examine the arguments which have been advanced by those who are disposed to give an answer to the query, more or less differing from my own.

I take Mr. Atleo's letter first, because his conclusions approach nearer to mine. He is disposed to agree with me, to a certain extent, as to the rejection of official and unpaid-letter stamps, and as to the acceptance of registration and too-late stamps. His principal difficulty is, that with regard to unpaid-letter stamps. No fair reason, he argues, can be given for excluding the large impressed figures or mere penmarks by which countries such as our own indicate the amount to be paid by the receiver of a letter. But I think there is a reason, and a very strong one too. Whilst adhesive stamps, as I pointed out in my previous article, are the legitimate offshoots of the postal system, handstruck or written figures are *the relics of the old system* which it superseded. The offices which use them have not yet perceived the utility of employing stamps for the collection of unpaid postage, they find the old plan works satisfactorily; but so long as they continue to use pen-and-ink, or handstamps, they are, in this particular branch of the service, a quarter of a century behind the age. The collection of postage by means of

stamps was an essential concomitant of the adoption of Rowland Hill's scheme; without stamps it could not have worked, and, therefore, I argue that philatelists may, without inconsistency, reject those handmarks which, long before the introduction of cheap postage, were used to show the amount of postage payable on delivery. I willingly admit that this argument has only recently presented itself to me, and I have to thank Mr. Atlee for it, for it was upon facing his objection, that I arrived at it. It is hardly necessary to add, that my observations do not apply to handstamped adhesives or envelopes proper, which are issued to the public. As to the official stamps, for the reasons already given, my own opinion is that neither adhesives nor impressed are properly collectable; but with regard to the former, many collectors would rather transgress the bounds of logic, than turn them out of their albums.

The editor of *The Philatelist* cannot have read the whole of my observations in the September number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, or he would hardly assert that I make prepayment the spinal marrow of a postage stamp. If he will kindly refer to my remarks respecting unpaid-letter stamps, he will find that I argue for their inclusion, because, "though these stamps do not prepay, they, nevertheless, represent postage;" but I do think that payment of the stipulated value at one end or the other is necessary to constitute a postage stamp. The learned editor inveighs against any attempt to curtail the borders of philately. In this I cannot but think he shows a certain degree of inconsistency. He is willing to make use of the argument of logic to justify the collection of varieties of perforation, paper, &c., but objects to it when its application would tend in any degree to limit the number of collectable stamps. Now, what I venture strongly to condemn is the attempt to invest certain stamps with attributes they do not possess for the sake of rendering them objects of collection. It is a very arbitrary way of going to work to say, Let us call a returned-letter stamp a postage stamp, that we may collect it. If that be the proper course to pursue, there is nothing to be said,

for from the moment a label is chronicled or catalogued it becomes *de facto* a postage stamp. The editor of *The Philatelist* advocates the admission of "labels of a quasi-postal character,"—but why? Where is the necessity for this vague and indefinite extension of the philatelic field? With a single, clear, and well-defined object in view, a collector knows what he is about, and has something to strive for; but divided aims may well lead to a diluted interest being taken.

The editor of *The Philatelist* in one sentence speaks of the "tendency to yield points of more or less importance to the science;" in another he says, "Let each individual collector do as he likes." Here again it appears to me his remarks involve a contradiction. If the editor regards philately as a *science*, it is equivalent to admitting that the pursuit of collecting must be guided by certain rules, and the very first of such rules must be that which defines collectable stamps. Nothing can be more fatal to philately as a science than the mere fact of such a distinguished student as the editor of *The Philatelist* telling collectors to do as they please. It is true, he adds to this the recommendation not to "tamper with that science which delights us all;" but that must be a curious science which admits of everyone doing just as he likes, and still collecting scientifically. Would it not be better if a congress, or conference, of some kind could be held, having for its principal object the declaration of certain leading principles or rules, to be subscribed by those present? Then we should have a definite standard to go by.

For my own part, I beg respectfully to object to arbitrary definitions of the term postage stamp—such as that of "P. I. A.," in the October number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*—made for the purpose of justifying the collection of all classes of labels. It appears to me like beginning at the wrong end. It is not necessary to find out what labels collectors are in the habit of accepting, and then to christen them all postage stamps. It would be more reasonable to determine first of all what is a postage stamp in the true acceptation of the term, and having thus

obtained a definition in accordance with *fact*, it would follow that all stamps which it did not cover were without the pale. This would not prevent individuals from accepting mere *postal* stamps if they chose, but such stamps would be relegated to their proper place, and would cease to receive an amount of attention and study which, taken as a whole, they are not worth.*

SIDNEY SIMPSON & CO., OF HULL, DEALERS IN FORGED STAMPS.

We open our columns willingly to give an advertisement, gratis, to the above-mentioned firm, and we only trust it will be seen and read by all our readers. Messrs. Sidney Simpson & Co. will not, perhaps, like the qualification which follows their name, but it expresses the simple fact. It is a twelve-month since we first published their address, as a warning to collectors, and they have since been pilloried in the "Black List" of *The Philatelic Journal*.

The circumstances under which we have come into possession of evidence of their dealing are simply these: A short time since, a friend of Messrs. Taylor & Son, Stationers, of Scarborough, received from Sidney Simpson & Co. a sheet of forged stamps on sale, and Messrs. Taylor have kindly forwarded it to us, together with the circulars by which it was accompanied.

The sheet is a ruled one, contains 98 labels, in seven rows of fourteen, and bears the following legend at the top, in *one* line:

"Foreign Postal Stamps for Collectors,
all at 1d. each. . No....."

In fact, except for a slight change in the wording and disposition of the lettering, it is identical in all respects with the sheets of

forgeries sent out by Mr. C. C. Dixon, of Hull, and exposed at page 171 of our last volume. Nearly all the counterfeits are of the commonest class, and are old acquaintances; we recognise among them the too-familiar Mexican, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., and first issue Brazil; the current Bolivian, the Paraguay essay, the forgery of the Guatemala invention, and the new series for the Dutch Indies. One or two novelties are added to keep pace with the times; notably the penny and threepenny Fiji. They *ought* not to impose on anyone, but it is to be feared that a great many young lads are swindled out of their money; and it is a great pity that the matter has not hitherto been brought under the notice of the police. However, we trust that the day of legal prosecutions is not far distant. Meanwhile, we are determined to do our best to put down so abominable a system.

That the trade in forgeries is a lucrative one may be judged from the fact that Messrs. Sidney Simpson & Co. can offer their penny counterfeits at tenpence a dozen, and still allow a commission of *fivepence* in the shilling to the persons who are foolish enough to act as their agents; in other words, they can afford to sell them at sixpence per dozen *net*, and still clear a good profit. In their packets the same forgeries are quoted as on the sheets. For a shilling they offer stamps of Bolivia, Paraguay, Hayti, and Ecuador, "and other equally rare varieties;" and the bait by which unsophisticated buyers are attracted is the obliteration of all the specimens. It cannot be too often repeated that obliteration, in itself, offers no guarantee of genuineness; and there is another equally important fact which requires to be impressed on young collectors, which is, that no stamp which is sold at so low a price as a penny can possibly be *rare*. Lastly, let "beginners," whatever their age, be careful to observe whether the stamps which may be offered to them are guaranteed to be genuine; if not, the stamps are almost certain to be forged.

* Since the above has been in type I have read the observations of my learned friend, Senor Pardo de Figueroa, in reply to my queries. I regret, but am not altogether surprised, that he should disagree with my conclusions, especially as regards the collection of official stamps. To him the question "What is a postage stamp?" is no more a question than "Who was the father of Zebedee's children?" and he declares himself to be in favour of the admission of all classes. He does not, however, support his declaration by any reason whatever. I, on my side, must therefore content myself by registering it.

ROMAGNA STAMPS.—Clever obliterated forgeries of these stamps are now being offered for sale by Italian dealers: a full description of them will be given in our January number.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

GUATEMALA.—The annexed engraving, copied from a very heavily-marked specimen of the stamp it professes to represent, first appeared

in the Belgian journal for last month, whose proprietor we have to thank for the use of it. It does not profess to be a correct copy of the design, and we have reason to believe it to be a very incorrect one. We do not possess a specimen of this one

peso stamp; but we have a rather badly-marked specimen of another value—the 4 reales—and presume the design of the two stamps to be identical. Starting with this assumption, we find that the arms on the shield are *totally different* from those on the engraving. The central item in the device is an upright *blank* scroll, with a blank band below, and, as nearly as we can make out, the hilts of two crossed swords, of which the points project, one on either side, behind the scroll. On the left side, what should be the half of a wreath is clearly visible; but, on the right side there appears to be another ornament; and there is something, but we cannot make out what, perched on the scroll. The ground of the shield is formed of horizontal straight lines, and the border, which surrounds the shield, has a dotted ground. Furthermore, before and after the inscription in the oval there is an elongated rosette. Thus much in correction of our engraving; we hope that very shortly the arrival of unused specimens will enable us to give an exact copy of the design. For stamps, which are evidently of native fabrication, the execution is certainly creditable. It is hardly necessary to add that they, nevertheless, form a striking contrast to the finished Parisian productions, which alone have hitherto been received from Guatemala. The native artists have copied, in a general way, the disposition of the French engraver; but the change in the arms is a striking fact, of which the explanation is most desirable. The colour of the 4 reales is mauve; that of the 1 peso yel-

low. Both are on white paper, and perforated 12. *The Philatelist* mentions a 1 real yellow, on the strength of a correspondent's report; but the value is probably, as given by M. Moens, 1 peso, though it may well be that other values exist.

ROUMANIA.—The Danubian principalities have at length bid adieu to lithographed designs, and now possess a series of stamps brand-new from Paris. If we did not know that they came from the *Hôtel de la Monnaie*, we should very soon find out, for the new Roumanian stamps resemble the French in the following points:—

- 1.—The border (Greek pattern).
- 2.—The inscriptions and their disposition; name of country above; figure of value on each side the word *rosta* below.
- 3.—The circle (pearled).
- 4.—The perforation ($13\frac{1}{2}$).
- 5.—The tinting of the paper.
- 6.—The colours;

and the French check-mark, *Contrôle T. P.*, in a transverse oval, is found at the bottom of each sheet. After this it may be as well to state that the profile is that of Prince Charles. The very fact that these stamps resemble, in so many particulars, the French, is a sufficient testimony to their elegance. The values are as follows:—

$1\frac{1}{2}$ bani	olive-green (for journals).
3	" bright green.
5	" bistre.
10	" bright blue.
15	" red-brown.
25	" orange.
50	" rose.

The combinations of the national colours, which marked the previous series, are no longer in favour.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—We have this month two new locals to chronicle, whose claims to distinction on the score of elegance are of the slenderest. Both are introduced to public notice by M. Moens.

Aleksandrowsk (Ekaterinoslav).—This is evidently a type-set stamp, and the orna-



ments which form the circle bear a close resemblance to the portraits of the house-fly which adorn the fatal fly-papers. The inscription rather curiously reads STAMP, RURAL POST OF ALEKSANDRIISK; and yet

the stamp really comes from Aleksandrowsk—and not from Aleksandriisk, a small town in the Grownogovernment, which does not possess a rural post, nor from Aleksandrow, in the Vladimir government. The signs in the centre of the stamp form the abbreviation of rural post stamp. The value of this oddity is 10 kop. The impression black on chamois-coloured paper, unperforated.

Rjeff.—The annexed design may, or may not, be that of a postage stamp. The



inscription reads simply RURAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT OF RJEFF. Neither of the words "post" nor "stamp" occurs, and it is far from improbable that this is a simple seal of the rural ad-

ministration. There is a second and similar type, differing merely in the disposition of the three stars, of which two are against the margin and one above. Time will prove what importance should be attached to this type; for our part we prefer to regard it as an official seal, and not a postage stamp.

Charkoff.—M. Moens gives currency to a report that the 5 kop. of this district has been issued in blue, as an unpaid-letter stamp; that is to say (in so far as these locals are concerned), for the collection of postage on letters to the district.

Bogorodsk.—We possess a blue 5 kop. envelope of the second type. Our Brussels contemporary also chronicles a 5 kop. envelope of the first type, printed deep blue, and of

various sizes. The blue stamps, bands, and envelopes are used for letters from the district to the town, and the red (except the 1 kop.) for letters from the town to the district. The issue of so many stamps by this post may be taken as an indication of its importance.

Elizavetgrad.—The stamp here represented was the first issued for the Elizavetgrad district, and was superseded by the similar design which we recently reproduced. The value, it will be seen, is 5 kop.; the colour is carmine. On being examined through a magnifier, an inscription is seen on the side of the book, signifying RURAL ADMINISTRATION ACT. In a short time we hope to be able to give our readers some information as to the general working of the system of rural administration, to which reference is here made.

CUBA.—Another emission! Before one can get on intimate terms with one series, another

makes its appearance; and what good purpose can be served by this perpetual shuffling of types we are at a loss to conceive. However, our duty as ushers is simply to introduce the guests which claim admission to philatelic pages, and not to criticise the motives for their appearance. The annexed designs are as yet known only from proofs, of which have been struck off in the following values:—

First type.

12, 12½, 25, 50 c. de peseta.

Second type.

Una peseta.

As M. Moens justly observes, it is probable

that the 12 c. will not be issued, the $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. being just the half of the 25 c. values. The colours are not yet known.

PERSIA.—We have received no further details respecting the series supposed to have been recently issued for this country; but we have had a communication from an esteemed correspondent (Mr. J. C. Wilson), which leads us to believe that the emission of the series took place a considerable time back. Mr. Wilson's letter reads as follows:—

I notice, in your magazine for November, that you mention a new stamp for Persia, as chronicled by Dr. Magnus, in the *Gazette des Timbres*; the design seeming familiar to me, I searched amongst a quantity of odds and ends and found the enclosed. You will see that it agrees in every particular with your engraving, the only exception being that the value in the angles is "1," instead of "4" as figured in the wood-cut. I had put the stamp aside long ago as a worthless imposture, although, when I come to think, I must have possessed it some time before forgeries were manufactured; but I can only speak from memory as regards this.

Mr. Wilson's specimen answers to our design, but differs to some extent from Dr. Magnus's description. It is not roughly printed; on the contrary, every detail is clearly visible, and the paper, though thin, is of a certain consistency. It is postmarked, and the look of the obliteration is the only suspicious point about it, consisting, as it does, of eight horizontal lines, forming part, apparently, of a lozenge; this strikes us as being rather an unlikely mark for a country like Persia. The stamp is coloured a light vermilion, and perforated 13. Taken altogether, we are inclined to believe it to be genuine, whilst, however, reserving our final opinion until the arrival of more positive intelligence.

LUXEMBURG.—A fresh supply of the 1 c., 20 c., and 25 c. was printed off at Frankfort in March last. The first-named value returns to the colour it had in 1865—a light red-brown, with perforation on a line of colour; the 20 c. becomes light chocolate, and the 25 c. dull blue. These stamps will not be issued for another three or four months, says *Le Timbre-Poste*, from which we gather these details. It states, in addition, that the $37\frac{1}{2}$ centimes is now a useless stamp, there being no longer any postal rate corresponding therewith; the supplies are consequently to be called in, and the value of the stamp will be

changed to one franc by the surcharge, in black, of the inscription UN FRANC on the scroll, which now bears the present denomination; and when the stock of this provisional stamp shall have been exhausted a new type will be chosen.

FRANCE.—A committee has just been constituted by ministerial order, charged with the duty of designating the modification which it may be desirable to apply to the fabrication of postage stamps, and will also have to decide whether it would not be advisable to get the stamps printed by private contract. Several deputies have had interviews with the French finance minister with reference to the reduction of the interior postal rate to 20 centimes, and it is said that M. Wolowski is again about to propose the issue of post cards.

BERMUDA.—*The Philatelist* says: "Some delay in the issue of the expected threepenny Bermuda stamp has taken place, owing to certain of the authorities desiring to employ a type bearing our Queen as a widow, like that employed for some Newfoundlands and Canadian bill-stamps. Being deterred, however, by the representations of their more economical fellows that the expense would be considerable, the head in present use will be employed, with the necessary alterations."

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 5 c. Rivadavia of the 1864 type, which had been recalled into temporary circulation, is now again "out of commission," after a currency lasting only from the 14th to the 30th June, a fresh supply of the 5 c. of the 1867 type having been printed off in red, on white wove paper, like the provisionals of 1867. The impression, says M. Moens, is defective, and evidently from a worn plate. The post-office, it is stated, has announced its intention to issue two new stamps this month.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Two new values have to be added to the existing series.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ groschen	} light brown.
9 kreuzer	

The former is for the North, and the latter for the South. These denominations were very much wanted, as they represent the postal rate to the United States, England, France, &c., and have hitherto had to be made up by employing two or more stamps.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.—The annexed design is that of the current ANOTACION stamp, which is used for letters which are both registered and insured. It is used in conjunction with the 5 c. stamp, with an R in the centre, signifying registered, and is printed in black on white.

WURTEMBERG has just issued a large postal card, colour blue, with a 2 kr. envelope stamp, impressed in orange, on the right upper corner, and also a reply-paid card, consisting (like that of Holland) of two leaves, each with a 2 kr. stamp in orange, but with different inscriptions.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—M. Moens gives an illustration, in his current number, of another odd watermark, said to exist on the penny wrappers, but probably only an essay. It consists of a kangaroo, surmounted by the letters A. P., face to face with an ostrich.

SPAIN.—Of the new series, the 6 and 12 cents de peseta, which have hardly seen the light, are, so it is said, to be suppressed; and notice has already been published by the Madrid post-office to that effect.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The Brighton journal states that a 30 cents stamp, design similar to that of our current sixpenny brown, is in preparation, and will probably supersede the 32 c.

MAURITIUS.—The same authority, rectifying our own statement, as well as that of *Le Timbre-Poste*, gives the following as the correct colours of the new envelopes:—

Tenpence	blue.
One-and-eightpence	marone.

NATAL.—We beg to refer our readers to our "Correspondence" column for information respecting another variety of the provisional threepence.

HUNGARY.—A newspaper wrapper, bearing an impression in yellow of the 2 kr. adhesive, and agreeing in all other respects with the Austrian wrapper, has just been issued.

JAMAICA.—The new halfpenny stamps for this island are printed in sheets of 240, and are watermarked cc. and crown.

AUSTRIA.—The 3 kreuzer adhesive and envelope are now printed dull greyish-green.

TRINIDAD.—The fourpence comes over of a greyish blue.

THE POST-OFFICE AS A PROFESSION.

FROM "THE AMERICAN POST-OFFICE GAZETTE."

Of all professions, of all modes of earning a living, farming and the management of post-offices are the two oldest in history. Both antedate the Christian era by thousands of years. Farming began when Adam and Eve commenced their lives outside the garden of Eden. The post-office commenced when men began to gather into communities and live a little apart. Our earliest profane and religious literature mentions the post as an existing fact. Queen Jezebel "wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles in the city." The book of Esther records that Ahasuerus, king of Persia, displeased at Vashti's disobedience, sent letters into every province of his vast empire. Xenophon tells us that Cyrus, when engaged in his Scythian expedition, "caused it to be tried how far a horse could go in a day without baiting, and at that distance appointed stages and men, whose business it was to have horses always in readiness," that they might carry the news and mails he sent home. And Herodotus tells us there were one hundred and eleven postal stages, each a day's journey, between Susa and the *Egean* sea, and that at each stage a large and beautiful structure was erected, with every convenience for the transmission of posts.

But the difference between the post of heathen and of Christian times is, that the one was only employed for government purposes; the other is open to every citizen, however weak, however poor. The same distinction has prevailed even up to our own day. The mail service of China dates back far into antiquity, and four hundred years ago there were ten thousand mail stations in that land, but all for the use of government. Not until the present century, and as a practice borrowed from Christian nations,

did China permit the use of the mails to all who could pay the postage.

It was six hundred years ago that the first regular mail service was established in Europe by the Hanseatic towns. So evident were its advantages, that Maximilian of Austria adopted the same plan throughout his empire and Lombardy. About 1480, posts were established in England by Edward IV., but only for governmental purposes. It was reserved for the Stuarts to establish a post-office in the modern sense of the term—a place and plan for the transmission of letters at fixed rates, and open to all. James I. was monarch of Scotland, then of England, and to keep up the possibility of correspondence between his two realms, and to weld them into one, he authorized the commencement of the mail service of the present day. It soon became self-supporting, and in 1650 was farmed out for 25,000 dollars a year. Thirty-five years later, it was worth 325,000 dollars a year. Every year it grew and improved, till the Duke of Wellington could say it was the only post-office in Europe that did its work, and till Lord Macaulay could call it “a splendid triumph of civilization.”

The American post-office is the child of the English, and equals its parent in the rapidity and safety with which letters are carried. But England receives a handsome profit from the carriage of letters at two cents each, while the United States loses five millions of dollars a year on a three-cent postage. The chief difference, or one of the chief differences, between the two is, that England receives pay for all the matter carried in the mail, while this country loses five millions a year under the franking privilege. In all other respects the postal rules of the two countries are alike.

Massachusetts was the first colony that established a post-office on this continent. As early as 1639 the following notice was posted up in one of the straggling streets of the little village of Boston:—

It is ordered that Richard Fairbank, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas or are to be sent thither; and he is allowed for every letter one penny, and must answer all miscarriages through his own neglect.

This constituted the first penny postage of the world.

Eighteen years later Virginia followed her sister colony by passing a law requiring each plantation to provide a messenger who should carry government dispatches; and it shows the currency then in use, that the penalty for failure was a hogshead of tobacco.

Boston and New York were the two first cities on the continent to be wedded by postal bonds. A monthly mail was established between them as early as 1672. The advertisement of this first mail transportation informs “those that bee disposed to send letters, to bring them to the Secretary’s office, where, in a lockt box, they shall be preserved till the messenger calls for them; all persons paying the post before the box be sealed up.” The two post-riders that then constituted the whole transportation force of the American continent set out from Boston and New York simultaneously, and, travelling the whole week, met at Saybrook, in Connecticut, the next Saturday night. Here they exchanged mails and congratulations, and, resting upon the Sabbath, spent the next week in returning to their homes. It was then considered very expeditious for a letter only to take fourteen days between New York and Boston.

A post-office was opened in Philadelphia in 1683; and in 1737 Benjamin Franklin was appointed postmaster, and thus gave notice of his appointment in his own paper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*:—

Notice is hereby given, that the post-office at Philadelphia is now kept at B. Franklin’s, in Market-street, and that Henry Pratt is appointed riding master for all stages between Philadelphia, Newport, Virginia, who sets out about the beginning of each month, and returns in twenty-four days, by whom gentlemen, merchants, and others may have their letters carefully conveyed.

Up to Franklin’s time, the postmaster-general had been wont to refuse the mails to all newspapers except his own. Franklin was appointed deputy postmaster-general in 1753, and threw open the mails to all papers. He was the only head of the department who in person visited every post-office on the continent. He greatly increased the transportation of the mails. Once a week in summer, once a fortnight in winter, had the mails been carried between New York and Philadelphia. He had the mails carried three times a week between the two cities.

For forty years was Franklin employed in the post-office as postmaster, deputy postmaster-general, and postmaster-general; and it is not invidious to his successors to say that no man ever performed the duties better. His lodger still remains in the office of the sixth auditor, in the clear, legible, but slightly tremulous hand of the philosopher, then sixty-nine years old. Many other duties did Franklin perform; but the post-office was his profession, and occupied nearly all his life. When he entered upon the duties of his office, there may have been forty persons on this continent making the work of the post-office their profession. To-day there are between forty and fifty thousand. Nearly thirty-two thousand of them are postmasters; eight thousand more are contractors; and so large is the number of clerks, route agents, mail messengers, &c., that there are in the United States to-day more than one thousand persons who make the post-office a profession for one that lived by it when Franklin was first appointed.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

France.

In 1860 fresh facilities for the transmission of printed matter were accorded to the public by the reduction of the rate for circulars to one centime for every five grammes. This led to the issue of the one centime stamp, olive-green, in November of that year, and at the same time the 80 c. made its appearance in rose, and the 5 c. in light green.

Up to this time no steps had been taken to adopt the English system of perforation, which had been in operation for several years, and had already found favour in other countries. In 1861, however, a Paris house, that of Messrs. Susse frères, pointedly indicated to the government the course to be taken, by setting up a perforating machine of its own. It was originally stated that Messrs. Susse merely used the machine to perforate the stamps which they sold over their own counter, but, according to Dr. Magnus, they also perforated the supplies of many of the ordinary stamp retailers,

with whom the invention became popular, owing to the time it saved in separating the stamps. All the six values then current, viz., the 1 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., and 80 c., exist with the Susse perforations (which are very large and coarse), but specimens are now with difficulty obtained.

Shortly after Messrs. Susse's machine had commenced working, the government, according to some authorities, issued a certain number of sheets of the six values *line-pierced* (that is to say, pierced with a series of short slits), and the same were put on sale in two of the Parisian post-offices and in several of the departments, but were soon withdrawn, the patentee of the perforating machine having threatened to commence an action against the administration for illegal imitation of his process.* Negotiations were then entered into with him, and in 1862 the entire series made its appearance officially perforated. According to M. Moens, however, the line-pierced stamps were as much the fruit of private enterprise as the Susse series.†

The issue of the perforated stamps did not give rise to any noticeable change in colour, and it is worthy of passing observation, that this is the only occasion on which an entire French series has appeared simultaneously.

The reduction, already adverted to, in the rates for circulars and printed matter necessitated the issue of two fresh values, and advantage was taken of the opportunity thus afforded to create a fresh type. The emperor's successes in Italy and Mexico had given him the right to grace his brow with a wreath of laurels, and this he figuratively did on the new stamps, as well as on the new

coinage. The two centimes red-brown, with laureated profile, made its appearance on the 1st January, 1863, and the 4 c. lavender, of the same type, on the following 12th of September. The execution of both stamps is faultless, and the portrait of

the emperor a good one. In the design

* See *Le Timbre-Poste*, vol. v., p. 5.

† Maury says nothing decisive on the point, and Mahé simply chronicles the emission without comment.

utility was consulted even before elegance, a bold figure of value being placed in each of the lower angles, and the word *Français*, abbreviated in the previous emissions, is here written at full length.

These two stamps, the two and the four centimes, have continued in use almost down to the present time, and that without any substantial alteration, though certain differences in shade may be noticed. The 4 c. is found in a deep grey, and the 2 c. varies from light to dark; the design also on the later-printed supplies shows some traces of wear.

From 1863 we take a leap to 1867, noticing, however, in passing, the strange *on dit* published in the first volume of the Belgian journal, to the effect that it was in contemplation to issue a 20 centime adhesive with a microscopic view of Puebla in the centre, surmounted by a soaring eagle! It was indeed fortunate that this absurd project, if ever really entertained, was abandoned. Stamps may well be employed to illustrate memorable events which have long been embalmed in a nation's history, but it would be great temerity to render them souvenirs of contemporary doings, of which to-morrow's occurrence may totally change the value or significance. To resume: in 1867 the four values used for the prepayment of letters, viz., 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., and 80 c. were issued with laureated profile and with *EMPIRE FRANÇAIS* in full; and a fifth value was added, the 30 centimes chocolate, intended for cor-

respondence with Belgium and Switzerland, with which countries postal treaties guaranteeing lower rates had just been concluded. The colours of this series are bright and effective, excepting only that of the 10 centimes,

which value (it must also be observed) is found in several shades, from pale to brownish cinnamon. The design is a fuller one than that of the previous type, and is all the handsomer for the broader borders and more legible inscriptions. The 30 centimes with ground of horizontal lines has been chronicled as a variety, but, as many (and I among

the number) think, in error. It is true that the later printed specimens show this ground, but I believe it always existed and that it has only become visible from some change in the mode of impression or from the deterioration of the die. The seven values (2 c., 4 c., 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c., and 80 c.) made their appearance about the end of 1869 *unperforated*, but specimens are now scarce.

In November, 1869, appeared also the long expected five-franc stamp, of which an engraving is annexed. Great things were expected of the engraver, M. Barre, but although the execution was characterised

by all his usual delicacy, the design itself—copied in the main from that of the bill-stamps—proved a great disappointment. As was justly observed, but for the word *TIMBRE-POSTE* the stamp might well have been taken for a revenue label. The colour of this truly valuable stamp is mauve; the figure 5 and letter F are said to be in violet-blue, but this I cannot perceive. That these signs were impressed *after* the rest of the stamp had been printed is evident, as the ground-work runs across them.

The list of imperial postage stamps proper closes with the 1 centime laureated, olive-green, which was issued in May, 1870, and is still in partial use. The *chiffres-taxe* and journal stamps remain to be treated of separately, and some notice will be necessary of the rejected envelope designs. To fill in these details, and retrace the history of the French post-office during and since the late war, will be my task in the next paper.

THE PLEASANT SHADE POST-OFFICE.

BY C. H. COSTER.

IN the course of my recent letters on the Petersburg stamp, I attempted to throw some light on the history of the very similar label issued by the Pleasant Shade post-office. Since then, I have made the subject one of special research, and aided by correspondence

furnished by Dr. Petrie, to whom my thanks are due, I am enabled to present the following history of the office in question. In the course of my investigations, I have found that the information furnished by a stupid official, and stated by him to consist of extracts from post-office directories—as to where Pleasant Shade existed, &c.—is by no means as accurate as could be desired. I therefore deem it better to take up the matter from the commencement, and I would say that I have taken pains to verify all the statements herein given, so that they may be relied upon as correct and accurate in every particular.

Pleasant Shade is situated in Greenville County (*not* Brunswick County), Virginia, not far from Hicksford, which is the county town. The post-office was first opened in or about 1859, with R. E. Davis as postmaster. On the breaking out of the war, it, in common with all the other offices in the Confederacy, was "suspended," and as such it appears in the post-office directories of that period. "After this cruel war was over," it remained closed until 1870, for in the directory of that year, I find it among the list of "Post-Offices established from August 1st, 1870, to January 1st, 1871." Since then it has been in active operation. It will be noticed that Mr. Davis, in his letter copied below, gives the date of the reopening as March, 1871. The discrepancy of a few months between this date and that given in the directory, can only be accounted for by supposing that, although the Washington authorities decided, in the latter part of 1870, to reopen the office, they did not put their decision into effect until March, 1871.

With respect to the stamp issued by Mr. Davis on the breaking out of the war, I append a letter from him addressed to Mr. Scott.

[COPY.]

Brunswick Co., Va.,
February 5, 1869.

Mr. J. W. Scott, New York City.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to yours of recent date, in regard to postage stamps, &c., I beg to say that I was postmaster at Pleasant Shade before the war, but have no stamps on hand now.

Very respectfully, &c.,
(Signed), R. E. DAVIS.

The envelope enclosing the above is post-

marked "Smoky Ordinary," Feb. 12. On reference to the map, I find that place in Brunswick County.

No doubts were entertained here as to the character of the stamp bearing Mr. Davis's name, until *The Philatetical Journal* for April last questioned very strongly the possibility of such a place as Pleasant Shade having ever existed. On receipt of that magazine, Dr. Petrie wrote to the postmaster at Hicksford, from whom he received the following reply.

[COPY.]

Hicksford, May 21, 1872.

Dr. J. A. Petrie.

SIR,—Your letter of inquiry after Pleasant Shade and its former postmaster, R. E. Davis, is received, and lies before me. In reply, I inform you that Pleasant Shade is a country store, with the post-office kept in it. It was closed during the war, but reopened in 1871, with Miss Eliza Mills as postmistress. R. E. Davis is living within a short distance of Pleasant Shade, has a family, and is farming in a small way.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed), S. J. BROWNE, Postmaster.

This letter was apparently written by a lady.

Upon receipt of the above, Dr. Petrie put himself in communication with Mr. Davis, and in reply to a letter sent him, asking for full particulars as to the stamp, of which Dr. Petrie enclosed a *fac-simile*, cut from *The Stamp-Collector's Guide*, received a reply as under:—

[COPY.]

Pleasant Shade Post-office,
Greenville Co., Va.,
June 21st., 1872.

Dr. J. A. Petrie.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 3rd inst.—making inquiries in regard to the postage stamp I issued and used at this office during the war, &c.—came to hand a few days ago, and I will answer all your questions as well as I can, under the circumstances, which I will have to do from memory altogether, as I have lost all of my post-office books and papers. I have read the magazine you sent also, and notice the pieces marked by you; and in reply to all of them I would say, whether Pleasant Shade was a *city* or "Hill" Shade, there certainly was a stamp issued expressly for that office during the war.

Now for your questions:

Pleasant Shade post-office was opened during 1859. I do not remember the month.

I was the *first* postmaster, and continued to the close of the war, I think, when the office was closed, and remained so until March, 1871, when it was reopened, and Miss Eliza Mills appointed postmistress.

I did issue a postage stamp while postmaster under the Confederate Government, but not like the one you enclose; my stamp was about the same as Petersburg stamp No. 1, mentioned and described on page 58 of *The Philatetical Journal* you sent me; only the colour of mine (the Pleasant Shade stamp) was *blue*.

I think I had several hundred printed. I do not remember the number exactly.

I had none but 5 c.

They were printed by Messrs. A. F. Crutchfield & Co., of Petersburg, Virginia, who edited *The Daily Express*. I have lost the bill, and do not remember what they cost.

I have not the die from which the stamps were printed. I have not any of the old stamps in my possession, and cannot get any; for it seems that every one has been destroyed. I have no Confederate stamps, and do not know where I could find any.

Hoping that this will answer your purposes, I beg to subscribe myself

Very truly yours obediently,

(Signed), R. E. DAVIS.

I may mention that Mr. Young, in his letter to me, said that the printer of the Pleasant Shade stamp was a Mr. Campbell, foreman to the proprietors of *The Daily Express*.

After considering the different sources from which the above information is collected, and yet how entirely it agrees in every particular, I think all collectors will agree with me, that there is no longer any reason for doubting the genuine character of the Pleasant Shade stamp.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANOTHER VARIETY OF THE THREEPENCE NATAL.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Your readers may like to know that a new variety of the 3d. Natal has just made its appearance. The stamp is a bright mauve colour, with POSTAGE printed on both sides in red ink. This makes the sixth variety of the threepenny.

By inserting this in the next number of your valuable magazine, you will oblige.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP F. PAYN.

Durban, Natal, South Africa.

THE T. B. MORTON POSTAGE STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—My silence ere this has probably caused some anxiety to philatelists, possessors of T. B. Morton & Co.'s stamps, who have read M. Moens' insinuations against the same. I should have written to you long since, had it not been for a sudden absence, which has kept me away for nearly a couple of months.

I was much surprised on reading, in *The Philatelic Journal* for April, that the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* hoped to prove, in the following month's number, that all the authentic information furnished by me to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelic Journal* was a pure invention of mine. Such a malevolent report has certainly no power to injure my reputation, and I am glad to see that during my absence you have already, in your June magazine, analysed M. Moens' chimerical documentary evidence. I need hardly add that I am ready

to prove its exaggerated character at any time, by producing copies of all my correspondence with the editor of your Brussels contemporary, regarding the T. B. Morton & Co.'s stamps.

In the meantime I may as well call your attention to a fact which forms, I think, a most curious feature of this discussion, and which I leave to M. Moens to explain; that is, that while M. Moens closed the article above referred to with a warning to philatelists against emissions from Constantinople (*garde aux émissions de Constantinople*), he himself, in the month of July, accepts the amount of subscription to his paper in T. B. M. & Co.'s journal stamps of the last emission! These I purposely remitted to him in order to test his own belief in what he had written, and also in order to read for myself the condemnation of the most unquestionably authentic T. B. Morton & Co.'s stamps, *an entire series of which is to be found in the archives of Her Britannic Majesty's General Post Office, having been officially obtained from the company.*

Under these circumstances all further comment in their favour I consider useless; and, in conclusion, allow me to avow that I would not compliment the subscribers of *Le Timbre-Poste*, if all the philatelic news reported therein be of equal accuracy.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Constantinople.

A. B. PANOPOULO.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. O.—We are obliged for your communication re the North German stamps.

G. H. H., Timperley.—A private opinion on the Mulready design is hardly a quotable thing.

B. T., Liverpool.—We cannot explain the scarcity of the one cent Nicaragua; that it is in circulation appears to be certain.

J. C., Moorestown, N. J.—We cannot explain the appearance of a St. John, New Brunswick, postmark on a Canadian stamp.

PERSEVERANZA, Notting Hill.—Your perforated Japanese is genuine. The issue of a perforated series was duly noticed in these columns a short time since.

N. S. TORR, Chester.—The stamps of the Dominion of Canada are now used in British Columbia; the emissions of the latter colony are consequently obsolete.

P. G. S., Oxford.—It is not probable that the accession to the throne of Sweden of the late king's brother will lead to the issue of a fresh series of either Swedish or Norwegian stamps.

E. H. L., Greenock.—Your Tasmanian stamp is one of the well-known series, and your specimen has no special value.—The 1½d. English stamp was issued last spring, and the emission was at once noticed in these pages.

H. S. J. H., Truro.—We have to thank this correspondent for sending us a paragraph from the *Western Morning News* treating of the Belgian stamps, but as the facts it contains are known to all collectors, its reproduction would not be useful.

X. P. RIENCK, Norwich.—The Roman stamps, we believe, are now obsolete. The French stamps are used in Monaco.—*The Canadian Philatelist* is published at Quebec.—All the values of the German series have appeared with the enlarged eagle.

NOVICE, Darlington.—Your stamps Nos. 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13 to 19 are forgeries; the rest are genuine, your New Zealand twopence brown is not a changeling, but a new emission.—The Permanent Album does not contain space for revenue stamps; Lallier's does.

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The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

OUR NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

AFTER having appeared in the same garb for ten years, we have to day put on a new dress. Our new dress, it is true, is of the same *cut* as the old one, but we modestly venture to think it a little more attractive than the latter. Thirty odd years after the introduction of cheap postage, the outline of its benefits, which Mulready sketched, may appropriately be filled in, for the promise it contained has been abundantly realised. We trust our readers will think that the filling in—rather an ambitious task by the way—has not been unsuccessfully accomplished. For our part we have to thank the engraver for giving us a better conception of the spirit of the design than we previously had.

In the subordinate parts of the frontispiece due regard has been had to philatelic appositeness. We need hardly refer to the stamps from which our engraver has copied the portraits that adorn the corner squares; our readers will, we are persuaded, easily recognise them without our aid. Perhaps, however, it may not be amiss to mention that the Etruscan border is copied from that on the Italian newspaper stamps.

By giving a more ornamental character to the wrapper, we have sought to signalise, in some slight degree, an event which, to us at any rate, is not without its importance, namely, the entry of the Magazine on its

second decade; and the printer, to aid us in giving additional *éclat* to the present number, has "set it up" from entirely new type, which alone will in future be used.

From our ever-indulgent readers we solicit the continuance of that kind and most necessary support which they have hitherto granted, assuring them at the same time that they may rely on the united efforts of editor, printer, and publishers, to render *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* emphatically the best of its kind—the fullest and most trustworthy source of information, and the most acceptable medium of communication. Need we, on the other hand, remind our friends how welcome their contributions would at all times be—how happy we should be to profit by, and make public, the outgrowth of knowledge which should result from that process of marking, learning, and inwardly digesting, which we feel convinced is going on in their minds?

From our contemporaries we believe we can count upon a kindly word of encouragement, which we, on our side, cordially reciprocate, having firm faith in the advantage of a common understanding for the common good.

Finally, we trust that the popularity of Philately—a pursuit which in its beneficial results can hardly be surpassed—will continue to increase, and to all our readers we wish A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXIV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

France.

THE last imperial stamp—the one centime—appeared in the month of May, 1870. On the 15th of July following war was virtually declared between France and Germany. In

the course of August the Germans took possession of Alsace and Lorraine, and the stamps issued primarily for the service of those provinces form the earliest philatelic souvenirs of the great contest.

On the 19th September Paris was completely invested. A month later the engraved Republican stamps (perforated reprints of the 1849 series) made their appearance in the besieged capital. In the same month Gambetta and his co-delegates established themselves at Tours, and in December they removed to Bordeaux, where was issued the *lithographed* series of republican stamps. After the conclusion of peace, other values of the 1849 type (engraved) were emitted by the head office at Paris.

For the sake of convenience let us examine the Bordeaux series first. Its emission was

necessitated by the almost entire exhaustion of the stock of imperial stamps (fifteen millions in all), which M. Vandal, the last postmaster-general of the empire, had caused to be distributed among the provincial offices immediately

after the outbreak of the war. The matter was one of extreme urgency. The dies of the 1849 type were shut up in Paris, and nothing remained but to issue some make-shift design in the most expeditious manner possible. To engrave a matrix would have been a work of months, and lithography was the only process which could be relied on for the prompt production of the much needed supplies. No doubt, to the pressure of time may also be ascribed the resolution simply to copy the existing designs,

—there was really no time for the preparation and submission of drawings of new types, and the immediate adoption of the old ones was a safe course.

The order to prepare the series was given by the postmaster-general *in partibus*, M. Steenackers; and the director of the Bordeaux mint only ten days after the matter was first proposed to him was able to announce that everything was ready; in that short time he had set up an *atelier* capable of turning out 1,200,000 stamps per day, or, in other words, 8,000 sheets of 150 stamps, of all colours and prices. That the work should have been somewhat roughly done is not, under the circumstances, surprising, and it will be admitted that some of the values are by no means without merit as lithographic productions. Considerable variations are noticeable in the colours of nearly every value, and they are due only to accident; but as the almost natural accompaniments of a hasty emission, they illustrate, in a subordinate manner, the circumstances under which the series was prepared, and are, therefore, worthy of a certain amount of attention, even from beginners. I would not pretend to lay down any rule as to the number of shades to be collected, but would merely recommend that those which show the greatest divergence be taken in preference.

The series is composed of the following values:—

LARGE FIGURES IN ANGLES.

- 1 centime, olive-green.
- 2 „ red-brown.
- 4 „ grey.

COPY OF THE 1849 TYPE.

- 5 centimes, chrome-green.
- 10 „ yellow-ochre, cinnamon, bistre.
- 20 „ blue, light to dark, ultramarine.
- 30 „ chocolate.
- 40 „ light orange to vermillion.
- 80 „ rose, carmine.

Each value being separately drawn, it follows that there are as many types as there are values, and the 20 c., having been drawn again and again, exists in not less than three types. The first type I incline to think was issued alone before the others; the second and third—or, adopting the results of Dr. Magnus's analysis, the second, third, and fourth—I believe to have been issued simultaneously. My argument is, that the 20 c.

being the value the most needed, was the first printed, a supply of the very defective first type being despatched to such post-offices as were quite out of stamps, pending the completion of the more carefully drawn second and third types.*

The first type is easily recognisable; in fact, it is impossible to confound it with even the roughly printed copies of the subsequent types. The impression is exceedingly coarse and blurred, and the space between the ring which surrounds the profile and the marginal border at the top of the stamp measures *nearly one-sixteenth of an inch*, whilst, in the other types there is scarcely any space at all. The colour is a thick Prussian blue. This type was certainly in use for only a very short time, and specimens are at present by no means easily to be had.

As to the other types, I will not venture on giving any detailed description of my own. "A Parisian Collector" gives, as the most perceptible difference between his second and third types, that the latter has four Etruscan frets in the border of the left upper side, and the former four Etruscan frets, *and* the commencement of a fifth. Dr. Magnus gives a second, third, and fourth type; but which is the second and which the third I must confess myself, after several hours' examination of scores of specimens, unable to determine. The differences between the two are so fine, and, therefore, very difficult accurately to describe; whilst, on the other hand, owing to the imperfection and irregularity of the printing, the stamps vary so much among themselves that the eye gets distracted and deceived—at any rate, mine did. Moreover, Dr. Magnus himself hardly claims more for his third type than that it is the result of a retouching of the second; we may, therefore, consider them as forming together only one in reality. His fourth type is distinguished from the preceding by the manifest increase in the height and thickness of the lettering. It appears to answer to "A Parisian Collector's" second type; and his classification, though I cannot entirely reconcile it with Dr. Magnus's, seems to be the

best, unless, indeed, we register them roughly as second type, small letters; third type, large letters.

Perhaps in even discussing these differences I am taking my readers somewhat out of their depth, but it seems to me that whilst beginners may safely postpone the study of varieties of perforation, paper, &c., a knowledge of the types, in other words the *designs* of stamps, is indispensable. It does not follow thence that the acquisition of closely similar types, such as those just referred to, is necessary; and with regard to them in particular I think that a specimen of the first type, and one of either of the others, would amply suffice for all illustrative purposes.

Looking at the design in its entirety, its comparative roughness is in itself sufficient to distinguish it at a glance from the engraved type of 1849, and not the veriest tyro need fall into error on this point. The two series are, it is true, both unperforated, but here the resemblance ends. With regard to perforation, it may be well to state, that although the lithographed stamps were officially issued unperforated, the postmasters of some of the provincial offices caused the supplies which they received to be line-pierced, or rouletted, by handworked apparatus in their possession. I believe that not a few private firms also rouletted their stamps for convenience' sake; but these chance perforations, though specimens exemplifying them may be worth preserving as curiosities, if one happens to come across them, certainly do not constitute legitimate varieties.

The series as a whole forms an interesting commentary on the fortunes of France during the war. Its currency ceased shortly after the conclusion of peace, and during the greater part of the time that it was in circulation it could only be employed in two-thirds of France, the remaining third being occupied by the enemy. In consequence of the hostile occupation the postal service became unsettled, and the lithographed stamps franked letters by many an unaccustomed route.

Turning now to the Parisian reissue of the 1849 type: the three values emitted during the siege were the 10 c. bistre, 20 c. blue,

* This is also the opinion of "A Parisian Collector." See *The Philatelic Journal*, p. 46.

and 40 c. orange. The first two made their appearance on the 11th October, 1870, and the 40 c. in the middle of the following December. Their emission, we are informed, was resolved on to satisfy the clamorous reclamations of the pent-up republicans, who were dissatisfied at the maintenance in circulation of the imperial stamps; probably, though many issues have sprung from political change, this is the only one that owes its existence to a popular manifestation against the political significance of a preceding type.

Following these three stamps came, on the 1st September, 1871, two others, also reissues of the 1849 type, namely, the 15 c. bistre and 25 c. blue. These latter were the results of a law voted a few weeks previously, by which, in order to render the post-office more profitable, the postal rates were raised; and, together with the 40 c. of 1870, they are still in use, though probably, should practical counsels prevail in the French parliament, the old rates will ere long be reinstated.

The five reissued stamps—10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., and 40 c.,—although their designs are necessarily identical with the originals of the 1849 type, since they are printed from the same dies, are easily recognisable from the fact that they are perforated, whilst the 1849 stamps were not. Besides this there are certain differences in the colour, as also in the tint and texture of the paper, which are easily perceptible on comparing originals and reprints together. No essential difference distinguishes the stamps used during the siege from those issued afterwards, but many people preserve intact the covers of letters sent out of the capital by balloon post, and prepaid by stamps. In this context it may be as well to mention that the reissue of the 1849 type under the circumstances above mentioned did not lead to the suppression of the imperial stamps; they continued in use both during and long after the siege.

Recently a new series has commenced to make its appearance, of which the low values (2 c., 4 c., 5 c.), following the lead of the Bordeaux lithographs, have the engraved profile of the republic, as on the old stamps, set in the frame of the imperial 2 c. and 4 c.;

whilst the higher denominations (30 c. and 80 c.) resemble the original 1849 type, but have the figures of value in the lower margin enlarged, complaint having been made that in the old design these figures were not sufficiently clear. To these stamps it is not necessary to make more detailed reference, as every reader must be well acquainted with them.

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—IV.

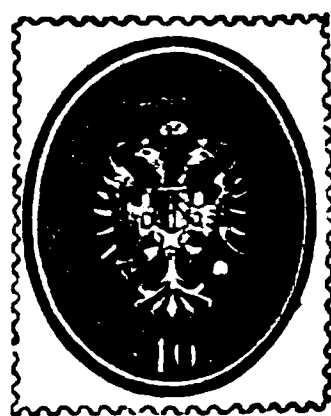
BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

(Continued from Vol. X., page 174.)

FOURTH GENERAL SERIES.

On the 1st July, 1863, the series with the profile of the Emperor in an oval was superseded by one bearing the double-headed eagle of Austria, and the colours of the various values were rendered more in harmony with those which had then lately been adopted almost generally throughout Germany. A series of envelopes was also issued of similar design to the stamps.



There are two distinct issues of stamps in this series; one—perforated 14, like the preceding series—was in use for little more than a year, when it gave place to the other, perforated 9½. The entire series is on ordinary white wove paper.

Of the envelopes there are three well-defined issues, all of the ordinary size:—

1st. A series on ordinary plain white wove paper, surfaced, with flaps similar in shape to those of the series of 1861.

2nd. A series on similar paper, with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of the series for 1861.

3rd. A series on white wove paper, with flaps similar in shape to those last mentioned, with letters in watermark of the same size as those found in the reprints of the series for 1861.

Classification.

I.—General series of stamps.

1. Earlier issue, perforated 14.
- 2 kreuzer, Naples yellow (shades).

- 3 kreuzer, sea-green.
- 5 " rose (shades).
- 10 " Prussian blue (shades).
- 15 " light reddish brown.

2. Later issue, perforated 9½.

- 2 kreuzer, Naples yellow to orange-yellow.
- 3 " sea-green, yellow-green (shades).
- 5 " pale and dark rose.
- 10 " Prussian blue and light ditto.
- 15 " reddish brown and light ditto.

II.—Journal stamp, imperforate.

- [1 kreuzer], dull lilac, grey lilac (shades).

III.—Envelopes.

1. Envelopes with flaps similar to series of 1861.

- 3 kreuzer, yellow-green (shades).
- 5 " rose and deep ditto.
- 10 " Prussian blue and light ditto.
- 15 " light amber-brown, reddish brown.
- 25 " violet (shades).

2. Envelopes with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of the series for 1861.

- 3 kreuzer, green, yellow-green (shades).
- 5 " rose (shades).
- 10 " Prussian blue.
- 15 " amber-brown (shades).
- 25 " violet (shades).

3. Envelopes with flaps similar to the last, but with letters of BRIEF COUVERTS in watermark, as in the reprints of the series for 1861.

- 3 kreuzer, light green.
- 5 " rose (shades).
- 10 " Prussian blue.
- 15 " light amber-brown.
- 25 " violet.

FIFTH GENERAL SERIES.

This series, issued on the 1st of June, 1867, at Pesth, on the coronation of the Emperor

the Emperor.* The series is perforated 9½, and is printed on ordinary wove paper. The gum is thin. The values are the same as in the preceding series, with the addition of two higher values—25 kr. and 50 kr.

For the journal stamp of this series the original design of a head of Mercury was reverted to; but the messenger of the gods seems to have grown very grim in the short space of nine years, and to have exchanged his winged helmet for something very like an iron pot.



A series of envelopes was also issued at the same time. This series is in two sizes, both of the same width, but the one (A) measures 5¼ inches long, while the other (B) measures 6¼ inches long.

Of the size A there are two varieties, depending, as in the preceding series, on the shape of the side flaps, but in both varieties of shape we find letters, part of the words BRIEF-COUVERTS, in watermark. In the variety with flaps similar in shape to the first variety of the former series, the whole of the values are found; it is probable also that the whole exist of the same shape as varieties 2 and 3, though we have only met with the 3 kr. and 5 kr.

In the size B the paper is not the same as that employed for the manufacture of size A, except in some copies of the 10 kr. and 15 kr. The letters of the watermark, BRIEF-COUVERTS, are farther apart, and shorter and

* In the last number of this magazine, Mr. Overy Taylor, in his paper on the stamps of France (p. 190), states that he thinks it an error to class this difference in the grounds of the 30 c. as a variety. He believes that the lined ground always existed, and that it has become visible from some change in the mode of impression, or from a deterioration of the die. In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, a 4 c. of the same issue is mentioned as having been found with a ground of vertical lines. Mr. Taylor is such a careful philatelist, that when we differ from him we do so with the greatest diffidence, but we think that the cause can scarcely be traced to the deterioration of the die. The wear of the die would scarcely bring out points which were obscure when it was in its first freshness. That the change is due to some alteration in the mode of impression is not improbable, though we think it is equally within the bounds of probability that it results from an alteration of the die, made for the purpose of better retaining the colour, and perhaps economising it also; but in either case it seems to us to mark a point in the stamp's history, and, if so, is worthy of collection as a variety.

as King of Hungary, is now in use, and already offers some varieties in shades. In some late impressions of the 5 kr., 10 kr., and 15 kr., the ground is no longer plain, but chequered, similarly to the later impressions of the 30 centimes French, laureated head of

broader, than in the paper of size A, and most frequently run across the face of the envelopes, instead of being on the flap.

Classification.

I.—General series of stamps, perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$.

1. Plain ground.

- 2 kreuzer, bright yellow to orange-yellow.
- 3 " dull yellowish green (shades).
- 5 " dull rose, madder-carmine (shades).
- 10 " Prussian blue to light ditto.
- 15 " umber-brown (shades).
- 25 " dull violet (shades), violet, brown-violet.
- 50 " flesh colour and salmon.

2. Chequered ground.

- 2 kreuzer ?
- 3 " red-madder.
- 10 " Prussian blue.
- 15 " light umber-brown.

II.—Journal stamp, imperforate.

[1 kreuzer] dull lilac, dark ditto, bright ditto.

III.—Envelopes.

1. Size A. Paper with watermark similar to that employed for the reprints of the series for 1861.

(a). Envelopes with flap similar in shape to those of series for 1861.

- 3 kreuzer, green (shades).
- 5 " carmine, madder-carmine (shades).
- 10 " Prussian blue (shades).
- 15 " umber-brown (shades).
- 25 " dull violet (shades).

(b). Envelopes with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of series for 1861.

- 3 kreuzer, light green.
- 5 " madder-carmine (shades).
- Other values ?

2. Size B.

(a). Paper same as for size A.

- 10 kreuzer, bright Prussian blue.
- 15 " umber-brown (shades).

(b). Paper with letters of watermark farther apart.

- 3 kreuzer, green (shades) yellow-green (shades).
- 5 " madder-carmine, and light dull ditto.
- 10 " Prussian blue, bright ditto.
- 15 " yellow-brown.
- 25 " dark violet.

In the year 1870 some of the remainder of the stock of envelopes of 1863 were utilized by affixing to them a stamp of 5 kreuzer of the existing series. These can offer no interest to collectors, as the adhesive stamps, after being affixed, received no further stamp or mark, like that employed by the North German Postal Confederation, but were probably affixed by the postal authorities; and, as Dr. Magnus well observes, this could be done on the envelopes of any series by the *premier venu*.

OUR FIRST DECADE.

BY FENTONIA.

BEING one of those who have taken in this magazine continuously from its commencement to the present time—whose name, when only an infant collector, appeared in its first volume, and who has been an occasional contributor to its pages ever since—I claim to be somewhat of a veteran in the service of philately, and therefore feel an especial pleasure in congratulating the editor and proprietors of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in particular, and philatelists in general, on its completing the first decade of its annual issue, having doubled the number of its pages, and infinitely more than doubled its readers, during that period.

Of the many changes that have been effected in the method of arranging and describing postage stamps, various opinions have inevitably been formed; but allowing the widest possible margin for grumblers, cavillers, innovators, *et hoc genus omne*, our decade has, nevertheless, been undeniably a continued course of progress and improvement, amounting to almost moral certainty, in all philatelic matters.

Perhaps no branch of philately has met with more determined opposition from thoughtful and sensible collectors than the minuter subjects of study, such as watermarks and varieties of paper and perforation. Continental collectors admitted, and were guided by, these distinctions long before more matter-of-fact Britons were convinced of their utility. I believe I was the first to dub the contending parties with the title of the French and English schools of philately, which distinctive appellations have ever since been appropriated to them. I very much doubt whether there still remains even one tough old Tory of the genuine old English school who has not, by force of argument or his own common sense, become, as it were, more or less, a Liberal-Conservative, although he may not have given his unqualified adhesion to the minuter requirements of the French school.

One of the most original and, to my mind, most illogical efforts of the French school was the plan propounded not very long since

by the eminent Dr. Magnus, to adopt the heraldic words "sinister" and "dexter" in describing a postage stamp. I have not his ingenious article on the subject at hand, nor would there be space in the present number to discuss his crotchets fully; but it is too important (as indeed are all his suggestions) to be passed over in silence. To maintain my position I must revert to the origin of heraldry. I need not go back as far as Morgan does in his *Sphere of Gentry*, who states that Joseph's coat of many colours was the first heraldic coat (it strikes me a patchwork quilt of ancient date would be of equal authority); but from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, when the laws of heraldry were pretty well established, will amply suffice for my purpose. The helmeted warriors of those days bore on their metal shields (hence to this day called *bearings*) certain grotesque or strongly-marked devices, which, in course of time, represented certain families, indicating who they were—if gentry,—or whom they served—if tenantry or serfs,—in the day of battle. Of course, to him who bore the shield, that which we now in heraldry call the "sinister" was on his left hand, and that which we now call the "dexter" was on his right hand. And who so great a right as him who bore it to call it "dexter" and "sinister," as it appeared to him, instead of the reverse, as it would appear to whoever looked at it on approaching him? But does this theory apply to a postage stamp, even if it bears an heraldic device? Certainly not. Whoever saw a living being strutting behind a postage stamp?—unless, indeed, it be the possibly traditional savage, who appropriated a lot of English stamps, and stuck them all over his unclothed body. I maintain, therefore, that Dr. Magnus's proposition is untenable; it has never been accepted in England, and, as far as I know, has gained little favour on the Continent.

Since the commencement of our decade a number of claimants have cropped up, such as fiscals, private stamps, and last, though not least, telegraph stamps. "What ought we to collect?" and "What is a postage stamp?" are still moot points. In my opinion fiscals are inadmissible, because they

free no letter. Private labels are equally so, inasmuch as a certain amount of postage has to be paid to make them valid [?]. Telegraph stamps can, however, take a more decided position, and make some claim to our notice. They do free an unwritten letter through the post-office; and yet not altogether unwritten either, for the sender writes down what he has to say, and the recipient gets the message written. I think, therefore, telegraph stamps are, in some degree, legitimate postage stamps, and, consequently, may be collected by the most exclusive and fastidious; though, being still the juveniles of our acquaintance, we do not yet take quite kindly to them.

In conclusion, humility demands we should confess that stamp-collecting started in life without a name. Presently *Timbrology* was introduced; then *Timbrophily*. In process of time the two were united; both died a natural death, and left a hopeful offspring under the more classical name of *PHILATELY*, to whom every sincere collector must earnestly wish a long and prosperous life.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We cannot better commence this the first chronicle of a New Year, than by a notice of a set of stamps which enters on circulation to-day in a very out-of-the-way part of the world; we refer to the emission for

ICELAND.—Hitherto, as we imagine, the Danish stamps have done duty there, but the postal service of the island being carried on quite independently of that of the mother-country, it is not surprising that it should be endowed with a series of stamps for its own special use. We cannot help regretting that no distinctive device has been chosen for them; in point of fact they have nothing Icelandic or outlandish about them. They are simply the Danish stamps, with the necessary change of inscription, accompanied by certain alterations in the details. Still, we fear the day is far distant when postal departments will submit the designs for

stamps which they purpose issuing to a board of philatelists; so we must rest satisfied with the fact that a new series, interesting from the remoteness of its place of service, has appeared, and content ourselves with chronicling its values, which are as follows:—

2 skilling	blue.
4 "	rose.
8 "	brown.
16 "	yellow.

Besides these, there are two official stamps, which differ from the preceding in colour and inscription only; their values are:—

4 skilling	green.
8 "	mauve.

On comparison with the Danish stamp, it will be observed that the new arrivals have the figure of value larger, and that the framework is of a different pattern.

CHILE.—The Chilean envelopes are at length a *fait accompli*; and to our Brighton contemporaries we are indebted for engravings of the four higher values, which, together with that of the lowest, we here reproduce. These are all stamps emphatically of the first order, of which mere wood-cuts can give but a very inadequate

idea at best. The designs are highly finished, the cameo heads being most effective, and the colours at once bright, delicate, and well chosen. That they are De La Rue's production is evidenced by the family resemblance they bear to the Cingalese envelopes, although the combinations of shape are new. If they have a fault, it is that the values are not sufficiently visible, being in sunken letters of the same size as the inscription by which they are preceded. The bust of Columbus is maintained in its place of honour, in preference to that of any modern celebrity; and now that the profile is admitted to be that of the great discoverer, we may award a meed of praise to the only American country which has held him in remembrance.

The colours of this elegant series, let us repeat for reference, are as follows.

2 (dos) centavos	brown.
5 (cinco) "	purple.
10 (diez) "	blue.
15 (quince) "	pink.
20 (veinte) "	bronze-green.

Supplies of the two lowest values have, we learn, arrived at Valparaiso, but are not yet on sale.

Of the post card we have no further intelligence, but assume that it is now in circulation.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—These form a regular item in our monthly bill of fare. The latest arrivals hail from

Weissiegonk (or *Wissegonk*), Tver Government. Their origin is evidenced by the



queer emblem in the upper section of the shield—a crown on stool—which is the same as that on the Tver stamps. As to the thing represented in the lower section, we can but support a contemporary's suggestion that it is intended for a lobster! We have gone

all round it without getting any better notion of its significance, and, after all, it may be that *Weissiegonk* is as famous for its crustaceous

as Belozersk for its finny staple. The design is lithographed on white wove paper in the following colours:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ kop.	red-brown.
1 "	green.
2 "	blue.
5 "	carmine-rose.

These stamps are unperforated. There are sixty stamps to each sheet of the $\frac{1}{2}$ kop., 2 kop., and 5 kop., and twenty-eight of the 1 kop. The date of emission is unknown; but the $\frac{1}{2}$ kop. is the only Russian local of that value, and as low-value stamps are generally among the last issued, we argue that the above series has only just made its appearance.

Aleksandrowsk (Ekaterinoslav), *Aleksandria* (Cherson).—The stamp described last month as belonging to the former, is now found to have been issued, in reality, for the latter district.

Rjef.—The type represented last month is stated to be, as we had supposed it, an official seal, used to close letters, packets, &c., much in the same way as the Egyptian officials are employed.

ECUADOR.—The annexed engravings are those of three new types said to have been issued for this country, but of which the authenticity appears very doubtful. The one real was described a short time since in the *Gazette des Timbres*, accompanied by an almost undecipherable engraving.

The half real and one peso arrived only a month ago. It will be noticed that the two latter are in the main

that such a distinction should exist in respect of the one real. It frequently happens that the highest value of a series is of a different design from the rest, but it is very rare for two consecutive inferior values to be of separate types (unless they are members of a series of which no two stamps are alike in design); and it is still rarer for the highest and lowest values to share between them a type which is not that of the intermediate denominations. Perhaps, on the other hand, this very lack of plausibility in the distribution of the designs is an argument in favour of the genuineness of the stamps: time will show. Meanwhile, we place on record the doubts with which they inspire both ourselves and our contemporaries, and close our notice of them by a list of their colours:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ real	blue	} on white paper, perf. 11.
1 "	orange	
1 peso	carmine-rose	

FRANCE.—We mentioned last month that M. Wolowski was about to reproduce his proposition with regard to the issue of post cards for France, and are glad to be able to announce that his amendment has been accepted by the finance minister. It reads as follows: "The department shall be allowed to manufacture *postal cards*, destined to pass through the post unenclosed. They shall be put on sale at the price of *ten centimes* for those posted and distributed within the circumspection of one and the same office, as also for those posted in Paris for Paris, within the fortification; and at the price of *fifteen centimes* for those circulating in France and Algeria, between one office and another." The boon is not an extravagant one; in England we should not think much of the privilege of sending a post card through the post for three-halfpence; but the peculiar circumstances of our neighbours, and their indisposition to accept radical reforms, must be taken into account in passing judgment on the modest proposal of the most enlightened French advocate of postal progress.

At the moment of going to press we learn that the above amendment passed the French National Assembly on the 19th ult., but not until after a lengthy discussion on its merits, in which M. Wolowski and the postmaster-

points identical in design, whilst the 1 real is of a type apart, copied in its general arrangements from that of the Costa Rican stamps. Now, it strikes us as very odd

general, in its favour, and a M. Cailloux, against its adoption, took part. The first portion of the amendment—that which relates to post cards—was only adopted after two successive divisions *par assis et levé*, the first proving indecisive.

JAPAN.—This country promises to be a prolific source of new issues. The annexed type, first described by the Belgian journal, was issued at Hiogo in September, and supersedes the blue one tenpo. The inscriptions in Roman letters, top and bottom, conclusively settle the question of the orthography of the denomination of value,

which must henceforth be written *sen*. The sign (—) on either side indicates the value; the hieroglyphics lower down are the same as those on the first series; not so the central inscription, which remains to be deciphered. The branches which frame it in are the emblems of the Mikado,—chrysanthemum and “paulownia,”—and above is the sun; the imperial dragons have disappeared. There are forty stamps in a sheet, and each one having been separately engraved, there are as many varieties as stamps. The impression is in blue, on yellowish white wove paper; perforated 10 and 11, the perforating needles having been placed at irregular distances. Two shades are already distinguished, viz., blue and dark blue.

GREAT BRITAIN.—It would seem that the impressed stamp on post cards has been condemned, and that an embossed oval stamp has been adopted as its successor. Our publishers have received from a correspondent a specimen of this novelty, and the annexed engraving represents it correctly. It consists of a cameo head of the Queen on a solid disk, inscribed HALFPENNY in an arch above, and POSTAGE in a curve below, the profile; a narrow white rim completes the design, which is, as usual, embossed in the right upper corner. The card we have seen was a plain white one, used by a private firm, and the

stamp was impressed in a pink of the same shade as that of the penny envelope. We should imagine the embossed stamp would be found inconvenient, as it would trench considerably on the space on the other side, reserved for the communication.

Since writing the foregoing, we learn that this embossed design is reserved for cards specially stamped at Somerset House, in execution of private orders, and will not supersede the existing design for cards sold over the post-office counter. By the creation of a special type for private post cards, the number issued, and consequently the extent to which the concession is appreciated by the public, can easily be ascertained.

DUTCH WEST INDIAN POSSESSIONS.—The forthcoming emission for these colonies turns out to be composed of two series, instead of one. The values are the same in each, as are also the leading features of the design, but the colours differ. Taking them in detail, let us first notice the issue for

Dutch Guiana (or Surinam).—The design consists of the profile of king to left, in pearled circle; name—SURINAME—above, but in white letters, on coloured ground; value below, on a straight label, intersected immediately under the portrait by a small shield, bearing the Dutch arms; rosettes in the angles; values:—

2½ cents	carmine.
3 ”	green.
5 ”	violet.
10 ”	grey.
25 ”	blue.
50 ”	orange.

It will not be forgotten that Dutch Guiana was the reputed home of one of the rarest of known essays—the 5 c., figured on p. 119 of Dr. Gray's catalogue, 5th edition—whose history has never yet been ascertained.

Curacoa.—Design: profile of king to left in pearled circle; name—CURACAO—above in curved label, following the circle; below, a curved label, inscribed CENT on either side, and intersected in the centre by an oval, bearing the figure of value on a lined ground; angles of the inner frame truncated, and filled with a small ornament; ground of dots outside the circle; values:—

2½ cent	green.
3 "	grey.
5 "	carmine.
10 "	blue.
25 "	orange.
50 "	violet.

From the foregoing it will be seen that, whilst preserving a certain general resemblance to the home stamps, the colonial emissions possess well-marked peculiarities of their own.

GUATEMALA.—We are now in a position to give a correct engraving of the new type, which bears out, in its principal features, the description we gave last month from an obliterated copy. Some of the emblems are by no means clear, and especially that which surmounts the scroll.

Mr. Pemberton, in the last number of his journal, expresses grave doubts of the authenticity of this type, reminding us that it has the same number of perforations (12) as the Guatemala swindle 5 c. brown (ship in bay), and he argues that the simultaneous appearance of these two new values, and the three Ecuador varieties referred to in another column, is in itself suspicious. Bearing in mind that we have had nothing new from the Boston gang for a long time past, we are inclined to share his doubts, and place these Guatemalas in the list of "suspects," until such time as conclusive evidence shall be forthcoming of their real worth.

CASHMERE.—Our Birmingham contemporary chronicles the following new colours of the rectangular series:—

6 pies	ultramarine.
1 anna	brownish yellow.
1 "	rich yellow.
2 "	lemon.

These varieties were received from the city of Travancore, and Mr. Pemberton inclines to the belief that the different cities print their own stamps, and are not very particular as to shade or impression. The colours of the 1 anna and 2 annas are perfectly distinct from any ever received in England.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. — The promised

thirty cents has made its appearance, and turns out to be modelled very closely on the English sixpenny brown, though the narrowness of the inscribed frame seems to us to detract somewhat from the general effect. We give the engraving without having seen the original, of which we ignore the colour, an important particular which *The Philatelist* does not give.

BELGIUM.—Reply-paid cards are to be issued this New Year's Day. The first half of the card has the word CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE at the top, below it the Belgian arms, and beneath that again the inscription REPONSE PAYEE ANTWOORD BETAALD; in the right upper corner, the 5 c. stamp. The second half, instead of "réponse payée," is inscribed REPONSE ANTWOORD; in all other respects it is a copy of its companion.

The Belgian *Moniteur* of the 27th ult., contains a decree ordering the creation of envelopes for that country, to be sold to the public at the price of one centime beyond the value of the stamp. This is followed by a notice from the minister that envelopes of the value of 10 centimes will be issued on the 1st of May next.

SPAIN.—In confirmation of a brief notice given in our November number we are able to state, on the authority of the *Revista de Correos*, that the following changes are to take place on this first of January. The existing 5 c. green (figure of value), 6 c. bright blue, 10 c. dull lilac, and 12 c. lilac are withdrawn; the 6 c. and 12 c. values are definitely suppressed; a new 5 c. stamp is issued with bust of king, colour rose; and the 10 c. is reissued in the colour of the abandoned 6 c. bright blue.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The accuracy of the report of the issue of a threepenny stamp is proved by the arrival of the stamp itself. It is very handsome; of precisely the same design as the four previously issued values; but the buckle of the encircling garter is more to the left than even in the sixpenny. It is printed a delicate fawn-brown, approaching closely to that of the Western Australian threepence; perf. 14, and watermarked cc. and crown.

EGYPT.—The same authority notices that the recently received supplies of the current series are more clearly printed, except the 2 piastres, which is on a thinner paper, of an apparently greasy nature, giving worse impressions than ever.

FRENCH COLONIES.—To the number of *unperforated* French republic stamps, doing duty *pro tem.* in the colonies, must be added the current 5 c., 15 c., and 25 c., which were issued on 1st October last.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The values of the two expected stamps are said to be $\frac{1}{4}$ centavo and 1 centavo; and the colours are, respectively, lilac and green.

TASMANIA.—A five-shilling stamp of the new type has just made its appearance, with oblique watermark—TAS; colour, bright red-violet, verging on magenta.

ON THE VARIETIES OF TYPE OF THE EARLY SWISS FEDERAL STAMPS.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

A GREAT deal has been written about the cantonal stamps of Switzerland, and abundant *formulæ* have been given for testing the genuineness of the Geneva, Basle, and Zurich stamps, while but comparatively little attention has been bestowed on the early issues of the Federal stamps. The discovery of a very suspicious-looking copy of the 15 cents Rayon III. in my own collection induced me to make an investigation into these early issues, with a view of ascertaining how many types there really were, so that by looking one of them in the face I might be able to detect if he were of the true blood; or whether, in addition to the white cross on his escutcheon, he had also a bar sinister across it.

The results of this investigation, which was at the best incomplete, were communicated to *Le Timbre-Poste* in November, 1871. The *hiatus* then left has been since supplied in a communication from M. Schulze, which appeared in that journal for October last, giving authentic details obtained from the printer of the stamps in question. From this communication, and from two articles which appeared also in *Le Timbre-Poste*, in the year 1868, I am enabled to string

together some reliable information, the truth of which my readers can verify for themselves, as I have done.

Before examining the question of types, it may be well to offer a few observations on the probable dates of issue of these early stamps. The use of postage stamps in some of the Swiss cantons dates from the year 1843—a very early epoch in the history of postage stamps—but the intricacies of the monetary system in Switzerland prior to 1850 were an obstacle to the use of stamps for prepaying postage beyond the limits of the canton in which they were employed, or beyond its limits and that of any neighbouring one having a similar currency.

The Geneva double stamp came into use most probably in the early part of 1844, as a specimen is mentioned as bearing the postmark of the 10th March, 1844, and, with the larger stamp of 5 centimes, continued in use up to the close of 1849. We here find, for the first time, postmarked specimens of two stamps of the values of 4 and 5 centimes, with a white cross as the principal feature.



These stamps have been usually called the "Vaud" stamps, but though all authorities agree as to their having been used at Lausanne, yet it seems perfectly clear that their use was not confined to the canton of Vaud, but extended also to Geneva; for the obliterating marks then in use in Geneva are found on these stamps. They seem, from their design, to be of a more generic character than the local stamps of Geneva, Basle, and Zurich, and may be looked upon as the forerunners of a general issue of stamps. In April, 1850, two stamps were issued, both of the value of $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen, for local postage, one having the inscription in French—POSTE LOCALE—and the other in German—ORTS-POST. From this



period no copies of the 4 centimes (Vaud) are to be met with, and it is probable, therefore, that it was superseded by the $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen. Its short existence is doubtless the reason of its being much less commonly met with than

its companion stamp of 5 centimes, which continued longer in use.

In October, 1850, two other stamps were issued for two circuits: 5 rappen, black on blue paper, for the first circuit—Rayon I.; and 10 rap., black on yellow, for the second circuit—Rayon II. The 5 centimes (Vaud) appears also to have been employed contemporaneously with these stamps, as also another stamp

of the value of 5 centimes, called the Neuchâtel stamp. This latter was probably issued about the month of August, 1851, and continued to be employed till about the close of that year. The two stamps of 2½ rappen—POSTE LOCALE and ORTS-POST—were suppressed at the end of 1851; and two other stamps were issued, of 15 rappen and 15 centimes, for a third Rayon—Rayon III. The 5 rappen, Rayon I., had also ceased to be printed in black on blue paper, and was then printed in blue on white, and the colour of the paper of the 10 rappen was made deeper in tone. On the 1st January, 1852, the entire series in use consisted of:—

Rayon I.	5 rappen	blue on white.
"	II. 10 "	black on orange.
"	III. 15 "	red on white.
"	" 15 centimes	red on white.

These stamps remained in use till October, 1854.

With regard to the two stamps, 4 and 5 centimes (Vaud), there seems to be only one type for the two values, the sole difference between the two stamps consisting in the figure of value. Throughout the 4 centimes I have never detected any variation in the shape of the figure; but in the 5 centimes there are at least two, if not more, types of the figure of value, and the letter c of CRS. does not seem to be invariably the same. Doubtless, while the 5 centimes was in use, several transfers were made of the body of the engraving. Of the 5 centimes (Neuchâtel) M. Regnard states that there are as many varieties as stamps on the

plate. For want of a sufficient number of specimens, I have not been able to ascertain whether his statement is correct; but so far as my observations have gone I have not detected any varieties.

It does not appear from M. Schulze's communication where or by whom the above stamps had been printed; but the 2½ rappen POSTE LOCALE and ORTS-POST, the 5 rappen Rayon I., the 10 rappen Rayon II., and the two stamps of Rayon III., were the work of M. Durheim, a lithographic printer at Berne. The whole of these stamps, with the exception of the two for Rayon III., were engraved on stone in five rows, eight in each row, thus making 40 types, all differing from each other in some of the minuter details. Four transfers were then taken from the engraving, so as to form a sheet of 160 stamps. Very shortly after the appearance of the 2½ rappen stamps, a black line was added round the cross; and this addition was afterwards made to the 5 rappen stamps black on blue paper, but as this was only effected shortly before they ceased to be printed on blue paper, specimens of this latter value with the black line are rather scarce.

This line round the cross was never applied to the stamps of 10 rappen, and was effaced from the engraving of the 5 rappen previously to the stamps being printed in blue on white paper, though imperfectly in some cases, as specimens are found in which slight traces of the line still appear.

The 15 rappen Rayon III. stamps were engraved on stone in two rows of five each, ten in all, each stamp differing from the others in some minute details, and transfers were taken from this engraving. The letters *Rp.* were then effaced and replaced by the letters *Cts.*, so that the same varieties in the design are found in the centime series as in the rappen series. A careful examination of specimens of the centime series will also show that the lettering is not uniform in each variety, the size and form of the letter *O* is especially noticeable, evidently showing that the engraving was subsequently re-touched.

The supply of 15 rappen doubtless becoming exhausted, a second engraving was made also of ten stamps. This is readily

distinguishable from the first by the size of the figures, as well as by the details of the groundwork, &c.

The annual consumption of these stamps having in the year 1854 reached six millions,

the Federal government decided on the issue of a new series, and on the removal of the manufacture of them to the mint. On the first of October, 1854, the new series appeared, consisting of five values, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 40 centimes, rappen, or centesimi—the three languages being all employed in the new design. The whole of the finished and unfinished sheets in the hands of M. Durheim were handed over by him to the postal administration, as well as the original engravings. These latter were defaced by the administration, and the remaining stock of the old stamps was burnt.

PROPOSED FRENCH OFFICIAL STAMPS.

A COMMITTEE was appointed last summer by the French National Assembly, to examine the working of the French postal service, and its report, which teems with interesting matter, was duly published in the *Journal Officiel*. For the present, however, we must content ourselves with extracting the proposals of the committee with reference to the emission of French official stamps. These proposals are most probably still under consideration.

After suggesting the propriety of making the prepayment of general correspondence obligatory, "there is another reform," says the report, which in principle is unquestionably just, profitable to the Treasury, sought after since the time of Louis XV., and which, from our point of view, it appears not impossible to realise—we speak of the revision of the restriction of the franking privilege, and of the measures to be taken to diminish the abuses of it, already lessened, it is true, but still great.

Assuredly the law was a just one, and politically useful, which decided under every

régime that officials called on to correspond between themselves on matters of public interest, might do so gratis. But, little by little, as always happens, by the side of justifiable exemptions others grew up which were not so. For instance, is it not going beyond the limits, to authorise private persons to write entirely without cost to certain functionaries, and to the ministers? Still, if that were all, we might bear with the evil. But it exists elsewhere, and in greater degree—it exists, above all, in that dishonesty which diverts to a large extent the postal franchise from its legitimate employment.

But too often letters referring to matters of only private interest reach the addressee post free in consequence of their bearing a frank-mark to which they have no right. On other occasions, the person possessing the franking privilege receives post free, under a double envelope, a letter intended for some one of his acquaintances, and transmits it to him. Again, it is not only the possessors of the privilege who misuse it: their subordinates very frequently arrogate to themselves, in turn, the profit of an illegal practice; in fact, in many public offices it is the fixed custom to substitute a handstamp for the signature which alone in the first instance conferred exemption; and it will be easily understood that this handstamp, more or less clandestinely employed, protects from payment a great many letters on which the Treasury ought to receive the postage.

Does this prove that the postal administration is powerless against such culpable practices? In theory, no; in reality, yes. The postal agent who suspects a violation of the law, certainly has it in his power to cause a verification to be made according to the prescribed rules. Some few have tried it, but it must be admitted their zeal has not been successful. It must not be forgotten that the possessors of the franking privilege are all personages endowed with a certain authority, and that an investigation into the circumstances of its employment being an implication against their good faith, even when it only touches on the proceedings of their subordinates, gives birth, as is but natural, to ill-humour and rancour. Thus it happens that at present, and for a long time:

past, a certain tolerance has passed into a custom.

These abuses are not incurable. It is even permissible to hope two energetic remedies would speedily reduce them. The first thing to do would be to revise and cut down the long list of existing exemptions, settled in 1844, and largely added to since in practice; and some members of the committee are of opinion that it would be desirable to lay down the principle that the *receipt* of free letters should alone be permitted. The second measure to be taken against fraud would be to change, so as to render verification possible, the mode of franking. Perhaps it would be advisable not to allow any unpaid official letters to pass the post, but to insist on prepayment, and reimburse the functionaries possessing the "franchise" afterwards; this is what the English do.* Perhaps it would be still better to renounce the system of signatures and handstamps, and issue special postage stamps, differing from the others both in form and colour, which each minister would distribute to his immediate subordinates, who, in turn, would then hand them over to such of the inferior employés as might possess the right to use them.

Each one would receive in proportion to the average of his requirements. There would be no lack of elements for establishing this average. For instance, there is not a prefecture where an estimate could not be made of the usual number of letters per annum which the mayor of each commune sends to the prefect, and of the replies which are forwarded to them. There is not a court of justice of which the *procureur général* could not reckon up the number of letters exchanged between it and the other courts of the district. These, and other corresponding reports, prepared in each administration, would serve as a basis for the distribution of the stamps among those entitled to use them. If there were not enough, an increase should not be refused, but as the insufficiency would have to be

proved, an investigation perhaps provoked, and a formal request made, one might hope that the possessors of the privilege would not only abstain from abusing it themselves, but would endeavour to prevent fraud from being carried on around them.

The Spaniards have finished by adopting the preceding system, and appear as satisfied with it as the English are with their combination. We find ourselves, then, authorised to say that a committee of experienced men, guided by the trials already made on the other side of the channel and the Pyrenees, elucidating and applying the ideas above emitted, could not fail to find a satisfactory solution of the difficult problem which has hitherto defied every effort.

NEW GRANADA "BOGUS" STAMPS.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS AND CO. have forwarded to us some specimens of Colombian stamps lately received by them from Mr. Engelhardt Fohl. As we have seen specimens similar to some of these in the hands of a dealer, at prices for which genuine copies ought to be bought, we would give a word of caution to our readers to beware of these imitations. One of these stamps is a SOBREPORTE 25 centavos, 1870; but this is so badly executed as not to be likely to deceive. Would that as much could be said about the rest of the batch; they are carefully got up and gummed. The greater part of the specimens are obliterated with an oval mark, within which parts of the word "Bogota" are to be seen; and they have remnants of paper on the backs, as if they had been torn from a letter.

The first lot consists of the 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 50 c. of the 1864 type. The colours of the imitations differ considerably from those of the genuine, especially in the 5 c. and 20 c., the first of which is far too yellow, and the latter too vermilion. A great difference is also perceptible in the figures of value; but we think the most ready mode of detecting them is to observe the bottom of the shield. In the genuine copies this is only a line, but in the forged ones it is a small ship. It should be remarked that all the stamps are from the same stone, the figures of value

* [Our neighbours are in error; our public functionaries do *not* prepay their correspondence; but its weight and the postage which would have been paid thereon are estimated, and the post-office takes credit for the amount in its annual report.—Ed.]

being changed to adapt them to the different values.

The next lot consists of the 1865 series. The peso is given in two colours—carmine and vermilion. These stamps may be distinguished from the genuine by the shading of the left upper corner. In the forgeries this shading radiates from the oval, while in the genuine ones it is oblique. All these stamps are also from the same stone, with the figures of value altered to adapt it to the other values.

The next are two nondescript stamps, of 20 and 50 centavos, of the type of the 10 centavos of 1867. An engraving of the 10 centavos has therefore been made and adapted to these fanciful stamps by changing the figure of value.

The last is the 10 pesos of 1867, by no means badly executed. Unfortunately—or rather, we ought to say, fortunately—the forgers have made two errors in the inscription, which reads CORREOS NUES E U. DE. COLUMBIA, instead of CORREOS NLES. E. U. DE COLOMBIA. There are also three stars too many.

DANGEROUS FORGERIES.

THERE are plenty of common counterfeits of the stamps of Romagna, which can only deceive the utterest tyros, but a new set of forgeries has just made its appearance which are calculated to mislead the most experienced philatelist. It is true that there is hardly a single detail in which they do not differ from the genuine stamps, but the difference in every instance but one is so slight as to be practically imperceptible, except on close comparison with the true type, and is consequently impossible to describe with sufficient accuracy to render detection certain. Happily there is one item in which the imitation is manifestly imperfect, and it will permit of instant recognition of the counterfeits without reference to the genuine stamps. We allude to the position of the ornament in the right upper corner. In the genuine this ornament is *square with the corner*, and therefore in a straight line with the word BOLLO; whilst in the forgery it has quite slipped out of place and slopes con-

siderably to the right, almost touching the letter P of POSTALE; furthermore, if a line be drawn along the bottom of the word BOLLO, quite a third of the entire ornament will be found to lie below it.

If placed by the side of genuine stamps, the thickness of the lettering in the forgeries (except in the word *Romagne*) will be perceived, and likewise the difference in the colour of the paper, which accords neither with that of the originals nor that of the reprints, which latter are all from the one sole genuine die.

These forgeries are all postmarked with an imitation of the correct obliteration; but here again there is a considerable difference, the space between the bars of the forged portmark being nearly double as large as between those of the genuine.

The vendors of these counterfeits reside at Messina, whence they addressed a supply to our publishers, to whom the thanks of philatelists are due for the steps they have immediately taken to secure the exposure of imitations which, had they passed unnoticed, would have done great harm.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PROPOSED PHILATELICAL CONGRESS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Will you permit me to ask a few questions about the "congress," to be held at Paris, of which you speak in your number for December? As I shall in all probability be in Paris in August or September, I should very much like to attend the meeting you propose, but only as one who desires to learn, as I am not a great collector, and my experience of philatelic matters is very limited. But I suppose that the congress you propose would be public, or at least that one would obtain admission on the payment of a certain entrance fee. As you ask persons likely to attend to write you, I do so now, and propose that the meeting should be held in some public room, where *everyone* should be admitted, collectors and outsiders, on payment of a certain sum. The Parisians being rather curious, I fancy many people would attend, and so not only any expenses incurred by the hiring of the room might be covered, but perhaps also a small sum made, which might be devoted to any plan for the encouragement of stamp-collecting. I suppose that before hiring rooms, a certain sum would have to be made sure of, and propose, therefore, prepayment by stamp-collectors who intend being present, or a guarantee on their part.

Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space,

I remain,

Yours truly,

B. C. DEL C.

Torquay.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelic Journal.—We deeply regret that this is the last occasion on which we shall have the pleasure of noticing this journal as a monthly publication. Too much credit cannot be given to the accomplished editor for his energy in completing the first and only volume by the issue of the two concluding numbers now before us, of which the preparation has been superintended from a sick bed. Philately itself acquires new dignity from the devotedness of such faithful servants as Mr. Pemberton, and our readers will share our own pleasure on learning that *The Philatelic Journal* is to be continued, in the words of its editor, as "a high-class quarterly." Such a magazine, in which exhaustive monographs may be published without such interruptions as are almost necessarily incidental to their appearance in a monthly journal, will, we doubt not, prove of great utility; and we trust that long ere the promised first number appears, its editor's health, sorely tried by a most painful and protracted illness, may be completely re-established.

Turning now to the issues for November and December, we find them, like their predecessors, full of readable matter. The double number for November contains no less than sixteen articles, among which may be specially signalized for their interest the concluding portion of the "Parisian Collector's" paper on "The Turkish Stamps," the list of "Bogus Novelties," and "Roadside Ramblings," by *Quelqu'un*. Who the "Somebody" is by whom the last-named paper was written it is not for us to say; but those who are not in the secret may form a shrewd guess as to the authorship from its style.

Glancing through the pages of this number, we come upon an observation which students of obsolete series would do well to bear in mind.

It is an understood axiom in studying used stamps, that a single obliteration of a certain date cannot fix the currency of a stamp of uncertain date, since a long obsolete stamp may, by [one of] a thousand accidents, be used years after it has ceased to have a postal existence.

Under the heading "Russian Locals," the editor inserts, and comments on, the letter

of a sceptical correspondent, who pretends that the Helsingfors stamp and Russian locals are not postals. The assertions of this correspondent illustrate the truth of the saying that a "little knowledge is a dangerous thing." The rural or secondary posts, the existence of which the head of the foreign department of the Russian post-office is stated to have denied, are referred to in the report recently published in the government organ, *The Official Messenger*. However, we will resist the temptation of going farther into the subject, Mr. Overy Taylor being, as we understand, engaged in preparing a complete history of the Russian local stamps, which we trust to have the pleasure of publishing shortly.

The December number is made up of the usual "Cream;" "Our Black List," in which Messrs. Sidney Simpson & Co., of unenviable notoriety, and other minor forgery-sellers, are shown up; "Novelties;" "The Stamped Envelopes of the United States," an analytical article, of value to philatelists who collect those envelopes in all their varieties of size and paper; "Remarks on *The Philatelic Journal*, No. 8," a series of acute commentaries; "Reviews;" and "Bogus Novelties." The review of the tenth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is a most kind and gratifying one, evidently prompted by feelings of warm and hearty sympathy, and we shall always hold it in pleasant remembrance.

La Gazette des Timbres.—The last two numbers of this journal have each made their appearance some considerable time after their nominal date of publication. Engravers and *clicheurs* are blamed for their delay; but, speaking with some experience in this matter, we believe that all such difficulties could be overcome by the exercise of the necessary amount of *will*; with the determination would come the ability to be punctual, and the *Gazette* would gain by regularity as much as it must now lose by its unbusiness-like lack of it.

The chief interest of the two numbers lies in the editor's paper on the Japanese stamps, to which we have already incidentally referred, and of which, when complete, we intend giving an abstract. In the "Minor Gazette"

the best method to be adopted for mounting stamps and envelopes is discussed.

The Philatelist.—Of this excellent publication we have three numbers to notice. That for November is somewhat below the usual standard, but the December emission is distinguished by the illustrations of the types of the new Chilian envelopes and the 30 c. Straits Settlements; whilst the January number is equally noteworthy for the engravings of the New Zealand stamps. In the latter appears a fresh instalment of "The Spud Papers," but this time from Mr. Pemberton's pen.

Le Timbre Poste.—The November number contains the translation of a letter from the director of the local post of Longa, addressed to a philatelist who had thought it possible, by sending him a rouble bank-note, to obtain a supply of the Longa stamps. The reply is a sample of obtuse officialism, and well exemplifies the truth of the saying, attributed to the first Napoleon, "Scratch a Russian, and you find the Tartar beneath." Some interesting details respecting the Romagnese stamps are given in the December impression. On the 2nd July, 1859, a certain Professor Gherardi de Lugo was requested to prepare a design for the projected series; and as he failed to comply with the request, the Turin post-office was applied to for a type, but ultimately the design known to collectors was adopted by the "Government Assembly" of Romagna, and the supply printed at Bologna. The emission of the series was notified by a decree signed by the governor-general, and dated Bologna, 30th August, 1859; its suppression was decreed by the governor of the Emilian provinces on the 12th January, 1860.

In the current instalment of the article on "Stamped Envelopes" Dr. Magnus refers, *inter alia*, to M. Bronne's visit to England, in 1841, as envoy of the Belgian post-office, and his report on the comparative advantages of adhesive stamps and stamped envelopes. M. Bronne decided in favour of the latter, and gave in a design for an envelope, of which *Le Timbre Poste* publishes an illustration.

The January number treats of the mythical 10 c. Prince Edward Island, of which it

now appears M. Moens received his three specimens from Mr. Goldner. M. Moens inclines to think they are genuine embryos; time will prove.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

France.

Stamps issued by the German authorities.

In the last paper an incidental reference was made to the stamps commonly known as forming the "Alsace and Lorraine" series, which we have now to consider in detail. The name they have received is essentially inaccurate, but it embodies the general belief entertained at the time of their emission, that their circulation would not extend beyond the ancient Elsass and Lothringen, of which it was the assumed intention of the Germans to take possession. In other words, the administration of the postal service in those provinces was looked upon as a mere preliminary—as in the case of the Schleswig-Holstein emissions—to the formal annexation. Not even those who foresaw the probability of the occupation of the heart of the country by the invaders had any idea that the German postal *employés* would follow the army and re-establish the every-day service wherever that army obtained a firm hold. Such, however, was the case. The currency of the "Alsace and Lorraine" stamps, originally limited to the vicinity of Strasbourg, spread with the unheard-of progress of the German arms, northwards as far as Abbeville, and westward almost to Le Mans. At the termination of the war their circulation was once more restricted to the two border provinces, wherein they lost all claim to be considered as French stamps, and became in reality a provisional German series.

Some collectors may question the propriety of classing these stamps with the French, but on this point the opinion of the leading French authority—Dr. Magnus—may well be considered conclusive. In almost the last number of the extinct *Timbrophile*, after adverting to the difficulty of coming to a decision, he expresses the opinion that, although

not a French emission, they should still find place in an article treating of the stamps *in use in France* in 1870-71. They cannot, in fact, with any propriety be classed apart, for, as shown above, they were employed not *only* in Alsace and Lorraine, but in several other provinces; nor can they be placed with the German stamps, for they were not, except at the last, used in Germany, and it is certainly a safer course to chronicle the stamps according to the place of their currency than according to the nationality of the issuing authorities.

The emission of the Franco-German stamps took place about the end of August,



1870, when five values made their appearance, 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 10 c., and 20 c. In January of the following year two more values were issued, the 5 c. and 25 c., which completed the series.

The design offers but slight ground for comment. Whether from motives of delicacy towards the invaded, as has been suggested, or, as is more probable, from mere considerations of utility, the inscription is limited to the word *POSTES*, and nothing appears on the face of the stamps to indicate the circumstances which led to their emission. These stamps were made for use, and not for ornament; and like many another series, hailing from the banks of the Rhine, they give proof of the true German love of things practical. For most collectors one specimen of each value will suffice, but those who care for varieties will be careful to obtain examples of an *erreur d'impression*, which occurred in respect of all, or nearly all, the values, and consists, to put it concisely, in the ground-pattern being upside down. In copies which present the design in its normal state, the concave side of the curves is uppermost, in the errors the reverse is the case; but the occurrence of these varieties proves simply that the printer took hold of the sheet, on which the *burelage* had been impressed in advance, by the bottom, instead of the top, when he put it under the press to receive the imprint of the frame and inscription of the stamps.

It has been stated that a sub-type exists,

with the lettering closer together. This is by no means improbable, but I have had no means of verifying the statement. I have compared together stamps showing the *burelage* right side up, with others with reversed *burelage*; and find the inscriptions differ only to such a slight and almost inappreciable extent as may be explained by the clearness or the thickness, as the case may be, of the impression.

In colour some of the stamps vary considerably; thus the 2 c., with ordinary ground, is of a dark chocolate-brown, whilst those with reversed *burelage* are of a light red-brown, approaching to burnt sienna. The 10 c. also exists in at least two distinct shades, and minor variations may be noticed in the others. No doubt the total quantity of stamps used was very large; the accidental appearance of colour varieties is therefore by no means surprising.

Post Cards.—These were issued in the beginning of the year 1871. They bore no impressed stamp. They contain, however, a place for an adhesive, and bear the needful inscriptions. I have never come across any of these cards myself, and have reason to suppose that their circulation must have been extremely limited.

Tax on Letters.—Just after the armistice was concluded, by virtue of which (among other things) the Germans were to hold the department of the Somme until after the payment of the first half milliard of the indemnity, a charge of 20 centimes each was made by the German officials on all letters posted within that department. This charge they had received orders (as the French journals put it) from "a very high quarter" to impose, and it was collected at the receiving post-office. All letters from towns in the Somme bore, besides the French 20 c. adhesive, the handstamped inscription *TAXE ALLEMANDE*, followed by a large figure 2, signifying two *décimes*. This tax, or "requisition," remained in force for about six weeks; why it was withdrawn I do not now remember. The imposition of such a charge was a high-handed proceeding on the part of the Germans, especially after the conclusion of peace; but it must be said that if their management of the French post-offices was signal-

ised by some arbitrary acts, it was also made the opportunity for beneficial innovations, which, unfortunately, the French have been unable to maintain in force; as, for instance, when letters were carried by the Germans between Amiens and any occupied town at ten centimes, instead of twenty.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

The *chiffre-taxe* stamps are applied by the postal officials to unpaid letters, and indicate



the amount of postage which the postman is entitled to claim on delivering the letter. In 1859 two stamps, both of the value of 10 centimes, were issued; the first was lithographed, and was in

fact a provisional; the second was typographed. The first was in use but for a very short time, and is, consequently, rare; the second remained in use until 1863, when it was superseded by the 15 c. The latter continued in circulation until 1871, when the three current values made their appearance. All these stamps are of one and the same type; the two 10 c. and the 15 c. are printed in black. The current set reads as follows:

25 centimes	black.
40 "	blue.
60 "	yellow-ochre.

Besides these there is mention made in *Le Timbre-Poste* of May, 1871, of a lithographed 15 c. black, supposed to be of Bordeaux origin, but, as far as I am aware, no further information respecting it has been obtained.

Of the foregoing values a line-pierced issue of the engraved 15 c. took place, of which specimens are rather scarce, and the current 25 c. is also found so perforated.

The existing 25 c. represents the charge for unpaid letters posted and delivered in one and the same district. The other two current values are for general correspondence, but they are hardly ever used, either because the number of unpaid letters is very small, or because the postal *employés* prefer marking the postage in ink, as they have been accustomed to do.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

The stamps of which the design is here

figured were issued about April, 1869, and are now obsolete. They were nominally of the value 2 c., and were printed in three colours—violet, blue, and red. The violet stamps are not fairly collectable, since they represent only the tax or duty on the journals to which they were affixed. The blues and the reds represented the tax *plus* the postage, and are therefore admissible. Their real values were as follows:—

For Provincial Journals:—

- 2 c. blue—tax 2 c. + postage within the department 2 c. = 4 centimes.
- 2 c. red—tax 2 c. + postage to any part of the country 4 c. = 6 centimes.

The issue of a similar series for the Parisian journals was also contemplated in the same colours, but of the value of 5 c., which in the case of the violet represented the duty only, while the blues and the reds represented the tax *plus* the postage. These latter stamps were, however, never issued.

The stamps had to be stuck on the newspaper sheets before the latter were printed on, so that they might be obliterated by the print. To that intent it was ordered that they should be placed at the right upper angle of the first page. No limit, it may be useful to observe, was put on the period within which the newspapers thus prepaid might go through the post.

The collection of unobliterated specimens must now be very difficult, and used copies are for the most part obliterated by the print in an unsightly manner; yet these difficulties do not constitute any reason for our rejecting the stamps, of which the higher values unquestionably possess a postal character.

POST CARDS.

The emission of official post cards having taken place only a few days prior to the writing of these lines, any description of them would be out of place, as they will no

doubt be fully treated of in another portion of the present number.

ESSAYS.

Several essays have been at different times submitted to the postal administration, but they offer but slight interest, especially to beginners. The best known are the envelope essay, of which an engraving is annexed, and a companion essay issued at the same time, of a similar type but rather larger, and showing at the top the imperial crown only. They were prepared in 1866, and were the production of a certain M. Renard. It is possible that they were really offered to the government; it is *certain* that so large was the number printed that a Parisian philatelic journal was able to give a specimen with every copy, and a Parisian dealer was in a position to quote them at 50 centimes each, in no matter what colour.

There are also two very scarce envelope essays by M. Barre,—one a small oval, the other a small circular design, each with laureated head of emperor in centre, issued in 1862, and several other essays have emanated from his *atelier*. From time to time reports of a forthcoming emission of envelopes have obtained currency, but it seems doubtful whether the project has ever been seriously considered.

The essays of adhesive stamps are, taken altogether, uninteresting, at any rate to beginners, and lack the necessary guarantees of authenticity.

Hybrid Emissions in Paris during the two Sieges.

During the Prussian investment of Paris, the "besieged residents" were allowed to use post cards for their communications with the outer world per balloon, but no official post cards, in the ordinary sense of the word, were issued. Within certain limits of weight and size the public was left free to choose such textures as it pleased. Various cards were prepared and sold by stationers, and copies of some of them may still be obtained in Paris.

There were, however, official cards of a

special description; they could be purchased in the Paris post-offices at 5 centimes each; to indicate their value they bore a 5 c. adhesive, and they contained, in addition to certain necessary instructions, four ruled and numbered spaces for simple negative or affirmative replies to an equal number of questions. The purchaser of the card in Paris wrote in a letter the questions he wished to ask, enclosed the card with the letter, and despatched the whole by balloon post. The receiver filled in his replies on the card, took it to the nearest post-office, and against payment of a franc the card was transmitted to a central office at Clermont Ferrand. There the address and the replies were copied on a large sheet of paper of which, by a special process, a miniature photograph was obtained, a sheet containing twelve to fifteen hundred messages being condensed into a space of about two-and-a-half square inches. This photographic copy was sent by pigeon post to Paris, and there, by means of an electric light and the most powerful procurable magnifying glasses, the messages were reproduced in legible characters, the photographic impression being magnified 160 times. Before the screen on which the messages were shewn four clerks sat at a table, and methodically copied them off. By this ingenious combination many an anxious dweller in the capital received intelligence from his absent family.

During the reign of the Commune many stratagems were employed to secure the safe delivery of letters in or from Paris after regular communication with the capital had been cut off. More than one article in these pages has been devoted to the description of the expedients adopted, but it is not within my province to do more than refer to the existence of the private postal agencies by which it is affirmed stamps were issued. Personally I may say, that with special opportunities of learning of the issue of such stamps, I never met with nor heard of any. I have seen placarded the advertisements of more than one postal agent, but have never seen any mention in them of the employment of stamps; and I can only conclude, that if any were really used the number must have been exceedingly small. On this subject the re-

marks of Dr. Magnus may be studied with advantage. After referring to the communist decree that all letters from the exterior delivered in Paris must bear a 10 c. stamp, besides the usual postage, and explaining the circumstances which gave rise to the establishment of postal agencies, he goes on to say:—

Of these agencies the majority collected their charges by means of the ordinary government stamps which were remitted to them with the letters. The Moreau agency used 15 c. and 25 c. envelopes, which were sold by all the postage-stamp retailers, and even in the post-offices. The employment of these envelopes, which bore not a stamp, but the mention of their value, covered the agent's charge, but did not dispense from the payment of the special rate of 10 c. for the town of Paris.

The Lorin office made use of envelopes and adhesive stamps, the latter being of two kinds—the postage stamp proper, serving to check the receipts, and the unpaid letter stamp representing the charge to be collected, according to the nature of the letter. The employment of these stamps and envelopes was exceedingly limited.

Other agencies, whilst doing the same work, used neither stamps nor envelopes, but private people who were never engaged in the service have not been behindhand in issuing stamps. To that order belongs the series of 252 stamps, said to have emanated from Versailles, but which, in fact, had their home in the inventive brain of some native of the country of the locusts and the obelisk.

We will not pursue any further this subject, which appears to us to be destitute of interest, but which, like the American local posts, may serve as a prolific source of deception.

The only stamps I have seen are those of the Lorin office, and they could be obtained for next to nothing *after* the struggle was over. However, following Dr. Magnus's excellent example, I will not discuss these emissions any further, nor—having completed the review of the French stamps—will I unduly prolong the present paper.

ON THE MOTIVES FOR THE EMISSION OF NEW SERIES OF STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

GENERALLY speaking that which is the result of pure accident excites less interest than that which has its origin in some well-defined cause. Thus, for instance, mere secondary colour varieties, due solely to the thickness or composition of the printing-ink, or the amount of force used in obtaining the impression, are admitted on all hands to be of inferior value to varieties due to intentional changes of type, paper, or perforation. The operation

of merely fortuitous circumstances in connection with the appearance of any given stamp evokes a passing surprise, but adds nothing to our knowledge, and therefore can add nothing to our interest in the pursuit. In like manner, if the constant succession of new series were due simply to chance or whim, or that monotonous opposite, an unvarying rule, such accidental or inevitable productions, as the case might be, would be devoid of one chief attraction. There are, in fact, some few emissions for whose appearance we are at a loss to account, and there are countries where series follows series with such rapidity as to give rise to the passing doubt whether such continual change can have any serious motive; but we are convinced that in every instance good and sufficient reasons exist, if we did but know them. We purpose jotting down in the present article the principal known causes of new emissions, and hope not only to interest our readers, but also to incite philatelists abroad to obtain information as to the *raison d'être* of series of which nothing is known beyond the mere fact of their appearance and currency.

The causes of the emission of new series may be roughly classed under four headings:

1. Political changes.
2. Alteration of the unit of currency.
3. Revision of postal rates.
4. Depreciation of the plates or dies of stamps, or other technical motive.

1. *Political Changes.* These consist in (a) the death or deposition of the reigning monarch, and the consequent occupation of the throne by his successor; (b) the substitution of one form of government for another; (c) the extension of territory. The death of Leopold I. led to the emission of the current series, bearing his son's profile; the deposition of Prince Couza and the accession of Prince Charles gave us the first series with the latter's portrait; the death, in succession, of Queen Maria and King Pedro, of Portugal, caused the issue of two new series; whilst the execution of Maximilian in Mexico, and the assassination of Prince Michael of Servia, led to the emission of new stamps containing the portraits of their respective successors. In like manner, the dictatorship of Colonel

Prado in Peru was the cause of the appearance of the beautiful series of stamps bearing a group of llamas in the centre. The accession of King John of Saxony, of Kings Kamehameha IV. and V. of the Sandwich Islands, and of Rajah Charles Brooke in Sarawak, were all signalised by the issue of new series of stamps. The substitution of one form of government for another as the motive of a new emission is exemplified twice over in the case of France. Mexico, also, again furnishes a case in point, and with the mention of Spain the list is tolerably complete. The third species of political change—extension of territory—produced its philatelic effect in the issue of new stamps for the German Empire, previously the North German Confederation; and for the kingdom of Italy, of which the sovereign was previously king of Piedmont.

2. *Alteration of the Unit of Currency.* Our North American dependencies offer several instances of the issue of new series, in consequence of the decimal system superseding the old English pounds, shillings, and pence. Canada, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and British Columbia, all of necessity changed the types of their stamps when they changed their monetary system. The last Spanish series, with head of queen, was inscribed with the values in fractions of the new unit—the *escudo*. The Roumanian authorities issued a fresh series of stamps, with value in *bani*, after the adoption of the decimal system; and Ceylon has recently shown us the example of a similar change.

3. *The Revision of Postal Rates.* This motive-power receives its most notable exemplification in the change in colour and type which took place in the various German states, in consequence of the treaty entered into between them which regulated the postal tariffs throughout the old confederation. Alteration in the rates has, however, more frequently resulted in the issue of isolated values than of entire series—to wit, the 30 c. French, the ninepenny English, the seven cents of the United States, the threepenny of Ceylon and of Western Australia, the 6 annas 8 pies of India, &c. In this country it led to the simultaneous issue of three stamps—the 10d.,

2/-, and 5/-; and in Piedmont, to the emission of the 1856 series.

4. *Deprivation of the Plates or Dies of Stamps, or other technical motive.*—This, it must be allowed, is a very broad definition, and it is intended to embrace in reality those motives at which in many instances we can but guess. That the issue of the current Portuguese series was decided on in consequence of the defective impressions obtained from the dies of the preceding type, is a conjecture which has every probability in its favour; but who can give with equal certainty the reason for the substitution of the current Norwegian type, with value twice repeated, for its predecessor, with value expressed only once? Why were the Swiss stamps of 1854 superseded by those of 1862? Was it because a difficulty was found in adapting the perforating needles to the old size? The Argentine issue of 1864 was evidently suppressed on account of the roughness of the later printed supplies. It may be assumed that the first Egyptian series gave place to the second for a similar reason. The constant succession of Granadine stamps, all of designs bearing a family resemblance to each other, and all on about the same artistic level, has not been authoritatively explained; but it may be that the activity of the forgers has been the leading cause, as it certainly has been the motive for the frequent changes in the type of the Spanish stamps.

It cannot be doubted that the ugliness of some stamps has led to their supercession. Unfortunately, the lack of artistic merit in the designs is but too seldom made a cause for their withdrawal; still, in the case of the Bolivian stamps, it was the presumable cause of the suppression of the first series; and it may be assumed that in deciding on the suppression of certain of the Victorian labels, the authorities were as much influenced by their mediocrity as by other and more utilitarian reasons; whilst it is certain that the United States issue of 1869 was condemned because the stamps were too small, and the Canadian series of 1868 because the stamps were too large.

And here we may close. We do not pretend to give a complete list of the series comprised in the above classes. The foregoing examples

will suffice to show that every series is issued for some good reason, and therefore illustrates some *fact* in the postal history of its country. It will also, we trust, encourage collectors in every country to ascertain the causes of the emission of the stamps that are, or have been, in use, and when such causes are unknown, to solicit from the postal authorities an explanation of them, which we feel sure would rarely be refused.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

DUTCH WEST INDIAN POSSESSIONS.—The types described in our last number are now in circulation, and we are pleased to be able

to give engravings of them. Both are of a high degree of excellence, and form welcome additions to our stock of South American stamps. The colours of the two series were given last month, and it is hardly necessary to repeat them, but it may be as well to state that the grey of the 3 c. Curaçoa and 10 c. Surinam has a shade of bistre in it, and that the 25 c. Curaçoa and 50 c. Surinam are of a brownish-tinted orange.

FRANCE.—The post cards, of which the emission was voted by the Assembly in December, were not issued until the 15th ult., a notice from the post-office informing the public that it had not been possible to prepare a sufficient supply for the date originally fixed. The national printing-office received orders to prepare twelve million of cards, of which four millions for the 15th January, and two millions between that date and the 29th January. The cards are white, rather thin, smaller than almost any others, and exceedingly plain, being, in fact, simple type-set inscriptions framed in by a slight ornamental border, of which the pattern differs for each

value. They do not show an impressed stamp, but their postal value is represented by adhesives. The 10 centime cards, for district correspondence, are ornamented with a space for two 5 c. stamps, and the 15 centime cards, for general correspondence, bear a 15 c. bistre stamp. The postmaster-general has issued a circular to his subordinates laying down the rules by which the issue and employment of these cards will be governed; and among others there is one which requires that no unstamped cards be issued to the public, the *employé* who neglects to affix the proper stamps to the cards before selling them rendering himself liable to certain penalties. Another regulation permits of the 10 c. cards being used for what we have termed general correspondence, provided an additional 5 c. stamp be attached to them. Both these cards are, we have reason to believe, essentially provisional. Before long there is great probability of the postal rates being reduced to their former level, viz., 20 c. for general, &c., and 10 c. for local letters. In that event a reduction in the price of the cards must almost inevitably follow; and when the emission of new 10 c. and 5 c. cards shall have been decided, we shall expect to hear of some attention being paid to their device, and to the preparation of an impressed stamp.

At the last moment we receive information of the emission of a nondescript stamp,—an adhesive, but not issued as such, and not intended to prepay letters. It is, in brief, a 10 c., with head of republic, of the 1849 type, pure and simple, without the enlarged figures; and it is at present exclusively used on the Paris local post cards. Its emission is evidently an afterthought, for on the Paris 10 c. post cards, which bear the new stamp, as on those used in the provinces, space is reserved for two 5 c. stamps. Moreover, the official instructions to the postal officials, issued a few days before the appearance of the post cards, expressly states that the district cards will bear two 5 c. stamps, the authorities not having any 10 c. stamps in hand. A Rouen correspondent, however, furnishes us with a clue to the mystery. This new 10 c., of the old type, is printed in *brown on rose*, and is no other than the old

10 c. bistre, dipped in the bath of colour used to tint the sheets of the current 80 c.; the colouring matter, besides dyeing the paper rose, having also changed the hue of the impression itself from bistre to a kind of bronze-brown. The authorities have thus turned to good account the surplus stock of the old 10 c., which value, as our readers will remember, was rendered obsolete by the elevation of the postal rates for local letters to 15 c. One of the Parisian minor papers states that this stamp will not be used out of Paris, but we can hardly credit this assertion, seeing what an economy of time and *matériel* would result from the employment of one stamp, instead of two, for the supplies of local cards for the provinces. In any case the new comer may be regarded as a veritable curiosity; an adhesive stamp which has no independent existence, but is only recognised as forming part and parcel of the post card to which it is attached, being quite an anomalous creation. We have been informed that its franking power has been tested by detaching a specimen from its card, and using

it as an ordinary adhesive to prepay a packet of patterns, which was subject to a postage of 10 centimes, and was allowed to pass by the French post-office. If this be so—and we shall test it for ourselves—we shall certainly recommend its collection apart, as an adhesive stamp.

Much to our surprise, the current low values of the republic have received an addition in the shape of an engraved 1 c. olive-green, which we learn has been in use since the 10th December last. It is a noteworthy fact that this stamp does not represent any postal rate, the lowest being, under the new tariff, two centimes, and it is only absolutely *necessary* for the purpose of forming, in conjunction with the 2 c. stamp, the rate of three centimes, chargeable on packets of printed matter not exceeding 10 grammes in weight. The other rates below 10 c. can be composed by means of the previously existing 2 c., 4 c., and 5 c. stamps. Such being the case, the question suggests itself,—why did not the French office go the shortest way to work by issuing a 3 c. stamp?

NEW ZEALAND.—Description and comment on the new series are both rendered almost superfluous by the annexed engravings. De La Rue is a very Aristides among stamp engravers, and we, for our part, feel almost inclined to call for an oyster-shell, and condemn him "right away."

We are loyal to the back-bone, but what would we not have given for the portrait of a tattooed Maori, instead of that stereotyped, expressionless profile of the Queen. The Chilians find room on their stamps for Columbus; the Canadians have given us the likeness

of Jacques Cartier; why, then, did not those parsimonious New Zealanders supply us with the effigy of Captain Cook, or Anson, or fit up a postal gallery of portraits of the early settlers? The only consolation we can find for dissatisfied philatelists lies in the fact that the new series of stamps, of which, however, the colours are not yet known, will form a tolerably striking contrast to its predecessor.

BELGIUM.—The "reply-paid" cards announced in our last were, in fact, issued with noteworthy punctuality on New Year's Day, and answer in all respects to our description, which, from ocular inspection of the cards, we are now able to supplement by some

further details. The 5 c. stamp is a transfer from the adhesive; the design is in bright lilac; the cards are printed back to back, so that the two inner pages are blank, — the impression in this respect differing from that of the double Dutch card. The engraver's name, A. Doms, is written in minute characters in the lower margin, between the lines of the borders; and M. Moens reproaches him with having slavishly copied the English arrangement of the legend, &c., — a reproach which appears to us to be hardly merited. One blunder, however, Mr. Doms did make, which has necessitated the employment of a government scratcher-out; — he added a *r* to the word ANTWOORD, making it read ANTWOORDT; and this superfluous letter has had to be erased by hand from every copy of the card. It must have been a little orthographical slip on Mr. Doms' part, as it occurs on both halves of the card.

Another advance in postal facilities has been initiated by the Belgian authorities. The receiver of a reply-paid card need not, unless he chooses, tear off the first half, containing the sender's communication; but may write his own reply on the second half, and return the card *entire* to the sender, without any extra charge being thereby incurred. The advantage it may frequently be to the sender to have his query and the reply side by side, for reference at any moment, will be easily perceived. Indeed, as auxiliaries to letters proper, post cards are becoming daily of greater importance, in proportion to the extension of their employment — in wise prevision of the financially profitable results — by the authorities of different countries. We have great hopes that the day which shall see the emission of international post cards is not far distant; and we have indeed already seen it stated in a French paper that France, which has hitherto been so much in the rear in postal reforms, will inaugurate the issue.

At the same time the design of the ordinary postal card has been altered to that of the "reply paid" cards. The words CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE, with the arms of Belgium underneath, and a stamp of 5 c., are printed in bright lilac. The card is rather larger than its predecessor, and exceeds the size

fixed by the ministerial order of December, 1871, by about one-eighth of an inch.

RUSSIAN LOCALS. — *Ekatérinoslav*. — A new and interesting local is introduced to our notice by *Le Timbre-Poste* as coming from this town. We give an engraving of it, and would take leave to call our readers' attention to the date 1787, which crosses the centre. It is that of the foundation of the city by



the Empress Catherine II. The letter *E* in the middle is the initial of the city's name. The surrounding inscription is of the usual purport. This stamp is printed pale yellowish green on white paper, and the value is facially indicated.

Kadnikoff (Wologda) possesses the annexed type, value 3 kopecs, and impressed in blue on white. The emblems, which have an ambiguous look about them, require explanation.



Tchern (Tula). — The annexed engraving represents a stamp first described on p. 98 of our ninth volume, and of which our publishers have but just received a specimen. The impression is a rough but plain one, in indigo on cartridge paper. The two wheat sheaves may be supposed to hint at the fertility of the region in which this 3 kop. *Tchern* circulates.



Bogorodsk. — In a letter from Moscow, of the 15th ult., we have received an entirely new series for this local post, which has already been sufficiently prolific in varieties. The design is similar to that of the previous issues, but the oval is smaller, and the forelegs of the horse, instead of being brought forward, are turned down. In fact, the horse is represented as prancing, instead of galloping.

The colours and values we have seen are —

1 kop.	rose and pale rose.
5 „	pale rose.
5 „	dark blue.
10 „	rose.
10 „	light blue.

It is probable, therefore, that the whole of the values exist in at least two shades of colour.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—In addition to the post cards already chronicled, we have to announce the advent of a new one for Germany, this time bearing an impressed stamp, which, with the rest of the design, is lithographed. The stamp is a rectangular one, of an old-new type, and consists of the imperial eagle in an oval, broken at each side by a small circular disk containing the numeral “ $\frac{1}{2}$,” and inscribed DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST in the upper, and the value, *ein halber groschen*, in the lower half, the rectangle being completed by an ornamental frame. The usual inscription is disposed in three lines, of which the topmost one is arched. The border is formed of a leaf pattern, with rosettes at the corners. The card is a large one, buff coloured, and the impression is in brown. The reverse side of it is plain. There is another card identical with the above, except in the value, which is 2 kreuzer.

A new envelope has just been issued, the $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen, bright lilac, of rather large size, and specially noticeable from the fact that it is destitute of any transverse inscription; perhaps in consequence of the absence of this inscription the embossed arms, which it is scarcely necessary to say are of the latest fashion, come out in strong relief. This new value exists on thin blue and white laid envelopes. Probably a twin one kreuzer has also been issued, to keep it company.

CHILI.—Our correspondent at Valparaiso, Mr. L. W. Meyer, has sent us specimens of the new Chilian post cards, which are now in use there. The stamp which they bear has already been engraved, but nothing has been said of the remaining portions of the device. The words CARTA TARJETA, in bold type, extend across the card, and above are the handsome Chilian arms,—a shield containing a five-pointed star, surmounted by three feathers (like the Prince of Wales's

plume). The supporters are, on the left, a crowned horse, and; on the right, a crowned condor. The design of the border is the same as that on our own cards. Mr. Meyer also sends us specimens of the 5 c. envelopes, ladies' size, manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., which, with the cards, were issued in Valparaiso, on the 22nd November last. The other envelopes have not yet made their appearance, nor are they likely to do so for some time to come, as it seems the supply sent out was lost. Four boxes of post cards and envelopes are stated to have gone down with the steamship *Tucora*, off Montevideo, and it is at least probable that the higher values formed part of the contents. Mr. Meyer furthermore informs us that an order for a fresh supply was to be despatched by the mail which brought his letter. The special uses of the several envelope values he gives as follows: the 2 c. for the local service of Valparaiso and Santiago; the 5 c. for general employment; the 10 c. for letters (by steamer) southwards; and the 15 c. for letters (by steamer) northwards.

MEXICO.—We are indebted to our old friend, Mr. W. P. Brown, of New York, for a sight of the most highly ornamented postmark we have ever met with. He informs us that the die was engraved by one of the officials in San Luis Potosi, for his own particular use. Mr. Brown received several single stamps showing portions of this mark, and at length received a letter franked by an uncut pair of the current 12 c. blue Mexican, which show the entire design to perfection. It consists, in fact, of the Mexican arms,—a boldly cut eagle, with outspread wings, grasping a serpent in its mouth. The eagle supports itself on an elaborate scroll, or ribbon, divided into three parts, the left inscribed ADMON SU, the centre BALTERNA DE CORREO, the right DE LA X^A; between the parts of the ribbon are disposed some leaves. Above the eagle's head, in a straight line, and in bold type, is the word CERRITOS. This postmark, which more than covers the two stamps, is certainly a curiosity in its way, and the *employé* who designed it might with advantage be consulted by his superiors when next there is question of issuing a new series of stamps.

JAPAN.—We are now able, through the kindness of a correspondent, to chronicle the whole of the values for the new series of this country, the one *sen* of which was engraved by us last month:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	brown.
1 „	indigo-blue.
2 „	orange-vermilion.
10 „	yellow-green.
20 „	bright mauve.
30 „	slate-brown.

The three lower values are alike as to the central device, but differ from each other in the frame and spandrels. The three higher denominations increase in size, like the Berge-dorf, the 30 sen nearly attaining the dimensions of the 5 p. and 10 p. New Granada of 1869. The branches of central device in the 10 sen give place to dragons with inter-twisted tails; in the 20 sen they are superseded by a fancy circle with leaves below, but reappear larger than ever in the vast 30 sens.

LUXEMBURG.—The provisional one franc, formed by surcharging the $37\frac{1}{2}$ c., of which the preparation was recently announced, has been in circulation since the commencement of December, and as no less than 70,000 copies of this stamp have been struck off, we shall probably have to wait a long while for the promised new type. The $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. is stated to be now printed in carmine.

SWEDEN.—We have received information of the issue of two new post cards of the same type as the first (which is now withdrawn from circulation) value, respectively, 6 öre lilac and 10 öre carmine; besides which we learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that “reply-paid” cards of each value have likewise been issued. They differ from the ordinary cards only in the possession of an additional inscription—SVARET BETALADT.

WURTEMBERG.—This country now possesses a “reply-paid” card, issued on 1st December, and of which each half bears an impression from the die of the 1 kr. green. *Le Timbre-Poste* speaks of the issue of a 2 kr. adhesive, orange-yellow, of the known type, printed on white paper, and line-pierced.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.—A correspondent informs us that he has heard of the emission

of stamps for this settlement, and specimens have been promised to him. We recommend our Canadian friends to ascertain whether this report is well founded.

VICTORIA.—The threepence, hitherto printed in orange, now comes over of a pale yellow. Our publishers received a supply by the last mail.

RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

A GREAT struggle is evidently being made by our continental friends to induce collectors of postage stamps to become collectors of fiscal stamps also. Dr. Magnus has for some time past been working with this view, both formerly, in the pages of *Le Timbrophile*, of which he was the irresponsible editor, and now, with redoubled energy, in those of *La Gazette des Timbres*, of which he is the responsible editor. The last edition of Lallier's postage-stamp album is announced as “containing 4,621 stamps, of which 3,698 are postage stamps, and 923 fiscal stamps, of all countries and of all kinds.” M. Moens, in his recent price-list, has catalogued a large number of fiscal stamps, which evidently shows that there is a growing demand for the article on the continent, or so prominent a position would not have been given to it.

We are glad to believe that the serious collectors of postage stamps in England repudiate all idea of foisting into their collections stamps which properly belong to other and distinct categories. The area of postage stamp collecting is now very considerable. Taking into account varieties dependent on colour, perforation, paper, and watermarks, a collection may, with care, patience, and study, be made to contain at least 10,000 specimens, a field which appears to us to be ample enough to satisfy most collectors. Still, if our continental neighbours will dream of fresh conquests, and are desirous of extending their collecting to other species of stamps, let them not, at any rate, endeavour, after the plan of M. Lallier, to incorporate them with the now time-honoured collection of postage stamps, but rather let all such stamps be consigned to a limbo of their own, where the amateurs of

"bung labels and physic stamps" may study them without distraction.

At present, with the exception of a few collections of bill and such like stamps, the collection of fiscal stamps has made but small progress in England; and before anyone attempts to form a more extended collection, we would recommend him to study the remarks of Mr. Pemberton, at page 185 of *The Philatelic Journal*. We were delighted to read the caustic remarks of one of the oldest contributors to this magazine, and one of the oldest disciples of philately. Of one thing we may be sure, that *The Philatelic Journal* will not advocate fiscal stamp-collecting, either openly or tacitly; but we regret to see, by a remark in the last number of *The Philatelist*, that the editor of that magazine is half inclined to throw up a straw to see which way the wind may blow.

We have all been interested of late, in the consideration of the definition of a postage stamp. A recent number of *La Gazette des Timbres* has given us some definitions of postage and fiscal stamps, which, while the definitions of the former are fresh in the minds of our readers, it may not be without interest to notice.

The writer of the papers "On the Methodical Formation of Collections of Stamps" proceeds, after a few words of introduction, to give his definition of what a stamp is. He says: "In its general acceptation, a stamp is an impression or vignette, the object of which is to represent the payment of a tax which individuals are bound to pay to the public treasury in certain cases, or under certain conditions fixed by law. This tax may be paid either by way of impost, or by way of remuneration for a service rendered by the state."

He then goes on to say that a stamp may be either fixed—that is to say, it may either be stamped on the document itself, as in the case of stamps on deeds, probates of wills, agreements, &c.—or it may be moveable, like foreign bill stamps, postage stamps, receipt stamps, &c.; and "although, in reality, the fixed and moveable stamps are destined for the same purposes, yet they differ in many respects from each other, and may be considered as forming two distinct collections,

rather than two branches of the same collection. Nevertheless," he adds, "we think that an analytical classification should not be based upon the material form which the stamp takes, but on the purpose and the destination for which the stamp, whatever may be its form, has been created." The author, therefore, proceeds to divide stamps into two categories, which he subdivides into other classes, as follows.

"1ST CATEGORY.—Fiscal stamps, or stamps the object of which is the payment of an impost, comprising:—

"First.—Stamps of dimension.

"Second.—Proportional stamps.

"Third.—Stamps for fixed duties.

"2ND CATEGORY.—Stamps, the object of which is the payment of a tax representing a remuneration for a service rendered by the state, comprising:—

"First.—Postage stamps.

"Second.—Telegraph stamps."

The author, in these hard-and-fast general definitions, has, we think, kept the French system of stamps too much before him, and has not duly weighed the effect they might have in other countries. We will see presently how these definitions would affect a collection of English fiscals; but before doing so, we would say a few words as to his definition of a postage stamp. A postage stamp is, according to him, "an impression, the object of which is to represent the payment of a tax which is considered to represent in itself the price of the conveyance of a letter, a conveyance accomplished by the state, or, in default, by the local administration, or by private enterprise."

We suppose that the definition of a telegraph stamp will be the same as the above duplex representative definition of a postage stamp, *mutatis mutandis*. In many countries on the continent, not only are letters and telegraphic messages conveyed by the state, but the state also charges itself with the conveyance of individuals on the railways belonging to and worked by it; in fact, for any country where the railways belong to and are worked by the state, we can scarcely conceive a better definition of a railway ticket than the above definition of a postage stamp, substituting the words "an

individual" for "a letter." For ourselves, if we had to choose between forming a collection of railway history and enterprise—the path of which has been, in some measure, marked out by the various forms of tickets that have been issued since the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester line in 1830, to that of the Japan line in 1872—and a history of the charlatanism of the United States, as evidenced by the varieties of stamps on all sorts of pills, potions, powders, and purgatives there vended, we should infinitely prefer the former, as a matter, not only of more entertaining, but also of more instructive study.

We have fostered philately amongst the young because it teaches them arrangement, order, some history, and no little geography; but we cannot help thinking that, without going into the question of obsolete railway tickets, the collecting of which would be requisite, in order to show the progress of railway enterprise, yet a collection of actual railway tickets would teach the fathers some geography that they did not know before, or had learnt only to forget.

But to return to the question of the fiscal stamps, which we will consider under the three heads above mentioned, the first of which is the *stamps of dimension*. These are stamps impressed on sheets of paper of various sizes, upon which are transcribed all deeds relating to dealings with real and personal property, all proceedings in the courts of law, such as writs, pleadings, copies of judgments, &c. They are called stamps of *dimension*, because the size of the sheet is regulated by law, and bears a stamp in proportion to its size. Thus, in France and Belgium, a sheet somewhat smaller than a sheet of foolscap, bears a stamp of about a franc, and the sheets so stamped are sold to the public. The document written on this stamped paper, is, when complete, taken to the registration-office, where the duties are paid, and a certificate to that effect is endorsed on the document. Until it is registered, it cannot be produced in court, nor can any legal proceedings be taken upon it; besides which it acquires no certain date, except from the day when it is sent in for

registration. In some of the public offices in France, the documents delivered from the office have an adhesive stamp of *dimension* affixed to them, which is obliterated in the office. From this sketch it will be seen how entirely the mode of collecting certain stamp duties in France and Belgium differs from the system adopted in England.

The second class of fiscal stamps is what in France are termed *proportionnal* stamps, but in England are generally known as *ad valorem* stamps. In France, the only *ad valorem* stamps are those on bills of exchange, which are, as in England, both impressed and adhesive. But in England, this class of stamps embraces nearly the whole system of the collection of duties by the stamp-office. A collection of English fiscals, confined only to the adhesive stamps of this class, would be nothing but a shadow and a sham. In this class are comprised the adhesive stamps on foreign bills, the impressed stamps on inland bills, the stamps on policies, on deeds relating to the sale, purchase, mortgage, and leasing of property, &c., where the stamps vary in amount, from a penny on bills of exchange under £5, and life policies under £10, to thousands of pounds on some documents.*

The third class of stamps which are employed for *fixed duties* calls for but little remark. The number of such stamps, both adhesive and impressed, is very considerable in England, but is not numerous in France. We think, however, that enough has been said to make it evident that, to arrive at anything like perfection in a methodical collection of fiscal stamps would be hopeless. Impressed and adhesive must both be collected, or we reduce it to a childish distinction between gum and no gum.

But besides these stamps, there is a class of fiscals, the use of which is not compulsory, which are neither flesh nor fowl, and cannot be brought under any of the before-mentioned heads, and in which there is no question of gum or no gum. These have been partially treated of by Dr. Magnus, in a paper on "American Private Stamps," profusely il-

* The probates of the wills of Mr. Brassey and Mr. Loder were lately stamped with stamps to the amount of £10,000.

illustrated by some of the latest triumphs of the reproductive art invented by, and the exclusive property of, *La Gazette des Timbres* (S. G. D. G.), reminding us, in the effect produced, of the rubbings of monumental brasses. We will notice these in our next "ramble."

THE STRAW THAT SHOWS WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS.

BY DON MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

TRIFLING things, events which pass almost unperceived in the daily life of nations, frequently suffice to give an exact idea of the character of a people.

On what part of the envelope should the postage stamp be put? I believe the question has been already resolved; stamped envelopes, post cards, journal wrappers, &c., bear the stamp impressed in the upper *right* angle,—an arrangement which facilitates the obliteration and sundry other postal operations. Let us see now what is the law in Spain on this subject.

The official regulation (1st December, 1849), treating of the employment of the stamps which were to be issued on the 1st January, 1850, ordains their apposition to the *upper part* of the envelope, and the *Geographical Chart*, published by the postal department in 1865, lays down that the stamps are to be placed at the upper right angle. Don Firmin Caballero, one of the most noted of Spanish writers, in his curious articles, entitled *Epistolary Correspondence* (1863-5), recommends his readers never to put the stamp on the flap of the envelope on account of the inconvenience they would thereby cause to the postal *employés*; and that excellent work, *The Spanish Postal Pamphlet* (1868), which was specially recommended by the government, repeats this good advice, and adds that the stamp should be fixed in the upper right corner. The same opinion is found in the journal called *The Spanish Postal Indicator* (1871). The Post-office even went the length of issuing the following special notice on the subject.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.—The serious inconvenience which may be occasioned by the habit of attaching stamps to the flaps of envelopes, or otherwise, so that they cannot be easily perceived by the postal *employés*, renders it ne-

cessary for the postmaster-general formally to request that stamps on all letters and packets be in future placed on the same side as the address.—Madrid, 26th Feb., 1869.
—The Postmaster-general, EUSEBIO ASQUERINO.

And yet it is impossible to overcome the confirmed obstinacy of the inhabitants of this veritable Africa (if the Africans will not be offended at my so calling it), which commences with the Pyrenees. Each *hidalgo* sticks the stamps on his letters just where he pleases. The law, even when it favours him, is to the Spaniard a dead letter. The people which destroys itself simply for the mere pleasure of destroying, and disobeys the law for the mere pleasure of disobeying, is indeed hard to understand and almost impossible to govern. The English are the antitheses of my compatriots. In England, as in all other civilised countries, people stick the stamp in the allotted place, which suits the convenience both of the writer of the letter and of the postal official whose work it is to pass it through the post. The English, with their usual good sense, have made a law of politeness of the matter, and thus we find it stated in that charming work *Mixing in Society*, that "the stamp should be placed exactly in the right-hand corner of the envelope; it must neither be upside down nor slanting, nor in any way carelessly affixed. Negligence in these matters evinces a rudeness to the person to whom you write, as showing that you think anything will do."

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—As I know that you take an interest in the *extension* of collecting, and try to aid collectors, I will ask you if you could not find some plan for forming a sort of exchange society, by which collectors might be enabled to get rid of their duplicates, and obtain in exchange for them specimens which they do not possess. I know that in this town there are many persons (and I am one of the number) who have been on the verge of giving up collecting on account of the difficulty of procuring new stamps without always buying them. If an international society (I suppose an *internationale* of this sort would be allowed in France) were established between English and French collectors, many colonial stamps might be sent over from this country which are comparatively rare in France, and other stamps wanted by English collectors sent back in exchange. I know that this scheme is almost chimerical, and that very great difficulties would have to be encountered, but still, after seeing how hopeful is the state of affairs at present, in your "Events of the Year," and how much has been done to encourage and promote philately by the aid of your paper and other

magazines, I trust that something of the sort may be established some day.

Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space with this long letter,

I remain,

Torquay.

Yours truly,

B. C. del C.

IN RE THE JAPANESE STAMPS.—A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Allow me to correct a misstatement in your last issue. The circular disk in the top centre of the Japanese stamp is not the sun, but a chrysanthemum flower, which is the well-known crest of the emperor. The corners are the cherry flowers. The inscription in the centre, "Yu bin kitté," means postage stamp, literally post communication ticket. *Tempo* is not, and never was, a unit of value. It is the name of the cycle or certain number of years during which the coin of the value of 100, or rather 96, *mons* was first issued. The inscriptions on the old ones were not expressed in *tempos*, but in *mons*.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

London, N. W.

JAPONICUS.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I have with great pleasure read over the opening address of the XIth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and I never before experienced greater satisfaction. I have been a collector of foreign stamps for seven years, and for two years of that time I only obtained the twenty-four stamps given in the magazine; and I think had it not been for the magazine coming in month after month I should have forgotten my album altogether; whereas I now possess a collection of about 2000 varieties, in a modern album, which is admired even by people who despise stamps and stamp-collectors; and the possession of this album is entirely due to the perusal of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Irrespectively of the geography and history I have learned from stamps, the arrangement of them has taught me the value of method and neatness, so that these poor world-despised little bits of coloured paper are no mean agents in a work towards which all education is directed. *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* has, in any case, been the immediate cause of my interest in stamps, and it therefore possesses an intrinsic value, in my judgment, which it can never lose. I feel that I am but doing my duty in acknowledging the debt I owe to your magazine; and at the same time allow me to congratulate you upon the highly improved appearance of your new dress, not forgetting the value of the jewel in the beauty of the setting. Returning the compliments of the season,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. M. COLLES, JUN.

The Vicarage, Melton Mowbray.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The following are a few notes recorded while reading your magazine, in the expectation that an abler pen than mine would direct attention to the several points. Not having seen any notice of these particulars, I venture to send my memoranda to you.

1. ENGLAND.—Post cards; two sizes; smaller, 2nd issue? I purchased on October 1, 1870, at our local post-office, one of the large size, but I also received, *by post*, a card on that day, of the small size. The stamp is obliterated, OCT. 1, 1870. This seems to point to a simultaneous emission of two sizes.

It has been recorded that the essay of the English sixpenny has been seen obliterated, and the observer notes it as showing that the stamp has passed the post.* I have a specimen of the green essay, the obliteration unreadable. I can only make out SEY and 6. I have also a specimen of the violet essay, bearing the identical obliteration recorded as on the green—AM, AP. 9, 1856. I obtained my specimen direct from the general post-office some years ago, and suggest that the obliteration was applied as an experiment, before deciding the colour, and that the stamp in question never franked a letter. In further proof, the well-known numbered obliterating stamp was in use when the small sixpenny stamp was issued.

While on the subject of our English stamps, I would inquire why the bistre sixpenny has been issued with the corner letters white on colour, if it be the intention of the authorities to print the whole issue with the letters colour on white?

2. FRANCE.—The writer in the December number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* seems to question the letters "5 FR." on the French stamp of that value being of a different colour to the stamps. My specimen shows the difference in tint most distinctly, the letters being a decided blue-violet.

3. VICTORIA.—I have not seen it noticed that the blue shilling Victoria has come over perforated to the size of the five-shilling stamp; this must show a rearrangement of the dies in the frame, resulting in their being placed further apart, to allow of this perforation.

4. TASMANIA.—Errors of perforation seem numberless. I possess a specimen of the 1d. rose, new issue, perforated not only in the right place, but *also* across the face of Her gracious Majesty.

5. HOLLAND.—The stamps of the Netherlands would puzzle any student of perforations. If some of the foreign philatelists would explain the cause of these eccentricities they would confer a boon on many a puzzled collector. Not only do the stamps vary in the size of the perforations (I have copies of the 5 cents perforated 12, 13, 14, 14½, respectively), but the lines of perforation vary in their distance apart. I have three stamps united, showing the centre stamp 2 1-10th centimetres wide; the others only 1 8-10ths, a difference quite perceptible.

6. FRANCE AND AUSTRIA.—I should be glad if some authority in printing would explain the phenomenon of the lined disk, seen in the 30 centime French "empire," and also in the 5 kreuzer Austria.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

Monmouthshire.

USK.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. S., Copenhagen.—Our publishers have handed us your letter to them of the 10th ult., containing a set of the new Iceland stamps, for communication of which we also are indebted to you.

T.—With reference to your letter respecting certain dealers in forgeries, we should be glad if you would send us for inspection the counterfeits you mention, as the prices at which some of them are offered are quite high enough for genuine stamps.

* See *The Philatelist*, December, 1872, p. 169.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXVI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Germany.

UNDER the above heading might be included, after Lallier's fashion, the emissions of all the states, great and small, which go to form the Fatherland; but such an arrangement would, in reality, be a deviation from the alphabetical order adopted in these papers, and, in philatelic parlance, the issues of Germany are understood to be those of the Thurn and Taxis office, the North German Confederation, and the present German Empire. Let us, then, confine our attention to these.

THE THURN AND TAXIS OFFICE.

To many young collectors the signification of the words Thurn and Taxis must be by no means clear. Ten years ago, in the first number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, one of the earliest and most accurate of philatelic writers, Mr. Mount Brown, explained the meaning of this strange title; and very recently, in the pages of a contemporary, an abridgement of Mr. Mount Brown's article was published, but, as in these elementary papers, it is my duty to begin at the beginning, I need offer no apology for repeating the information already given respecting the origin of the Thurn and Taxis post-office.

Thurn and Taxis is not the name of a place, but of a family, whose ancestors were first heard of in Italy, as the *della Torres*, Lords of Valsassina; eight of the *della Torres* were, in succession, lords of Milan; the last of the eight, Guido the Rich, perished in a feud with the Visconti, and one of his sons, Lamoral I., settled in the territory of Bergamo, and took from the mountain Tasso (one of his possessions there) the name *del Tasso*, and afterwards *de Tassis*. His great-grandson inherited the possessions of his predecessors, united their titles, and was known as Roger I. of Thurn and Taxis. This personage was knighted by the emperor, Frederick III., in 1450, and in the latter half

of the century founded the fame of his house by the establishment of a post in the Tyrol. This is all we know of Count Roger I., but it is sufficient to warrant our taking some interest in this half-forgotten German prince, who deserves to be ranked with Louis XI. as one of the earliest postal benefactors. He must have known how to manage the post he established; for instead of its dying out, like many another knightly venture, it proved to be the initial step towards the foundation of a service whose functions only ceased with the Prusso-Austrian war of 1866. So successful was the conduct of his enterprise, that, in 1516, his son—on whom Roger's mantle seems to have descended—was charged by Maximilian I. to form a post from Brussels to Vienna,—no mean undertaking in those days. The subsequent progress of the Thurn and Taxis post is best described in Mr. Mount Brown's own words:—

“In 1522, on account of the war with the Turks, an imperial post was established from Nuremberg to Vienna, which ceased on the return of peace. On this Charles V. ordered Leonhard, Count of Thurn and Taxis, to establish a permanent post, which went from the Netherlands, through Treves, Spire, Wurtemberg, Augsburg, and the Tyrol to Italy. In 1543 he created the Count *Oberpostmeister* of the German empire. About the end of the sixteenth century, the Thurn and Taxis post, shaken by disturbances in the Netherlands, and oppressed by debt, fell into disuse, but rose again under the favour of the Emperor Rudolf II. But the Palatinate, Wurtemberg, Saxony, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg, and other states of the empire, formerly included under Thurn and Taxis, had in the meantime established posts in their own states, and refused to recognise the validity of the office. Upon this, Lamoral, Count of Thurn and Taxis, was raised to the rank of Baron of the Empire, and received the imperial post in fee for himself and male heirs, which was subsequently extended to his female descendants. Various states have at times shaken off or purchased the monopoly; thus, Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Hanover, Saxony, Baden, Oldenburg, Luxemburg, &c., have now their

own postal arrangements.* But the Thurn and Taxis family still possesses, as a fief of the empire, the posts in Nassau, Saxe-Weimar, Schwarzburg, Rudolstadt, &c., &c. In the free cities of Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, they possess *some* of the posts, but the general direction of the Thurn and Taxis office has had its seat since 1811, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, where the Thurn and Taxis posts are *exclusively* used."

From this we see that the Thurn and Taxis post survived, though with diminished importance, the empire under which it was created. We find, moreover, that, until a few months ago, a post conducted, not by the state, but by a private family for its own personal benefit, existed in the heart of Germany, as one of the recognised means of international communication; and the two unpretentious series of Thurn and Taxis stamps carry us back, by their associations, past locomotives and mail-coaches, to the old feudal times, and the primitive post-houses and runners of a by-gone age.

The list of the states served by the Thurn and Taxis office is as follows:—

Northern States (unit of currency, the thaler)—Electorate of Hesse, the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar, the Principalities of Schwarzbourg-Sondershausen, Reuss, and Lippe, the free cities of Bremen, Hamburg, and Lubeck.

Southern States (unit of currency, the florin)—Grand Duchy of Hesse, the Principalities of Hohenzollern, the Grand Duchies of Nassau, Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Cobourg, the principality of Schwarzbourg-Rudolstadt, the Landgraviate of Hesse-Hombourg, and the free town of Frankfort.

The stamps issued for the two sections were all prepared at Frankfort, and, although M. Berger-Levrault gives the date of emission of the first *groschen* (or Northern) series as 1852, and that of the *kreuzer* (or Southern) series as 1850, I am inclined to believe that both were issued *together* in 1852, everything being in favour of a simultaneous emission. These stamps, like those of Baden and Wurtemberg, were issued pursuant to the provisions, or as a consequence of, the postal

convention of the 6th of April, 1850, to which the Thurn and Taxis office was a party. The inscription, DEUTSCH-OESTR. POSTVEREIN (or German-Austrian Postal Union), which is found on all the Thurn and Taxis stamps (on the right-hand side), refers to this convention, whereby the postal arrangements over a great portion of central Europe were regulated, and uniform rates established.



The first series were printed in black ink, and were composed of the following values and colours:—

Northern States.

$\frac{1}{4}$	silber groschen	red-brown.
$\frac{1}{2}$	"	(1858) flesh.
$\frac{1}{3}$	"	green.
1	"	light blue.
1	"	dark "
2	"	rose.
3	"	yellow.

Southern States.

1	kreuzer	green.
3	"	light blue.
3	"	dark "
6	"	rose.
9	"	yellow.

The Northern issue shows a larger number of stamps, on account of the fractional denominations, which have no equivalent in the Southern currency. It will be observed that there is complete identity of colour in the corresponding values of the two series, and even of shade in the blue stamps. The two varieties of the blue are very distinct, have always been admitted, and seeing that they occur equally in both series, it is hardly likely that they were the result of accident. Probably the dark shade was the first issued—in former years it was certainly a *shades* rarer than its companion—and it being found that the postmarks did not show up clearly, it was superseded by the light blue.

* These states liberated themselves about the time of the restoration of Louis XVIII. to the French throne.

The designs are neatly and even finely engraved, but are not remarkable for their originality. A numeral of value in the centre of a square (for the *groschen* series), and of a circle (for the *kreuzer* series), sufficed, in the opinion of the Frankfort officials, for use, and a special ground pattern for each value for ornament. These designs remained current to the last, without any alteration.

In 1859 a second edition of them made its appearance, distinguished from the first by being printed in colour on white paper, and also by the addition of two new values to each set. The colours read as follows:—

Northern States.

$\frac{1}{4}$ s.gr.	red.
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	sea-green.
1 "	pale blue.
2 "	rose.
3 "	brown.
5 "	lilac.
10 "	vermilion.

Southern States.

1 kr.	light green.
3 "	blue.
6 "	rose.
9 "	yellow.
15 "	lilac.
30 "	vermilion.

The $\frac{1}{4}$ s.gr. is not represented in this set, and there is one exception also to the general similarity of colour in the corresponding values. Whilst the 3 s. gr. is in brown (the colour about that time adopted by various states in the postal union), the 9 kr. continues in its old shade, yellow.

The high-value stamps are of considerable merit, and may be said to be as pretty as stamps with numeral in centre can be. The two Northern values show the figure in the

centre of a "tesselated" square, as it has not inaptly been termed; and the 15 kr. and 30 kr. have the figure on a similar ground, within a circular inscribed scroll. Such of my readers, however, as may not possess specimens, can judge for themselves from the annexed representations.

In 1862-4 a fresh series saw the light, characterised by an interchange of colour, and printed, like the preceding, in colour on white.

Northern States.

1864.	$\frac{1}{4}$ s.gr.	black.
1863.	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	green.
"	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	orange.
1862.	1 "	rose.
1864.	2 "	blue.
1863.	3 "	bistre & yellowish bistre.

Southern States.

1862.	3 kr.	rose.
"	6 "	blue (shades).
"	9 "	bistre (shades).

No further change took place in the colours, but in 1865 all the values of both sets, except the two highest in each set, viz.:—

s.gr. $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3.
kr. 1, 3, 6, 9.

were issued line-pierced, and the emission is marked by some accidental differences in shade. Subsequently, the same values were issued perforated, or rather pierced, on a line of colour. The two highest values in *groschen* appeared *piqués*, and also pierced in parallel lines, in 1866; the 15 kr. and 30 kr. appeared at the same time pierced in parallel lines. We believe, however, this was an unofficial *piquage*. These differences in perforation may only perplex the beginner, and copies of them are not now easily met with.

ENVELOPES.

Only one series, properly so called, has been issued for each of the two groups of states. The *silber-groschen* set and the *kreuzer* set appeared simultaneously on the 21st September, 1861. The values then issued were the following:—



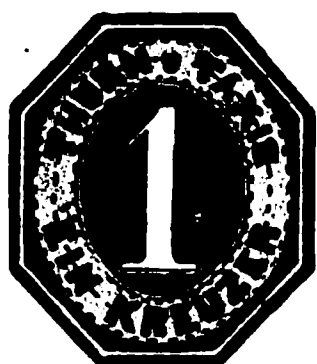
Northern States.

$\frac{1}{2}$ s. gr.	orange.
1 „	rose.
2 „	blue.
3 „	stone.

Southern States.

2 kr.	yellow.
3 „	rose.
6 „	blue.
9 „	stone.

Each series shows the numeral of value on a plain ground, enclosed in an engine-turned pattern, inscribed frame; but the Southern set has this border enclosed in an exterior octagonal frame. The colours of the corresponding values, with the exception of the two lowest, are identical.



Later on, at the close of the year 1865, an additional value was added to each set, viz.:—

$\frac{1}{4}$ s.gr. black. | 1 kr. green.

Three different supplies, or, as they may be termed, editions, of these series were printed off—the first two at Berlin, the last, on the occasion of the issue of the above-mentioned low values at Frankfort.

The first edition has the minute diagonal inscription above the impressed stamp—EIN HALBER (EIN, ZWEI, or DREI, as the case may be) SILBER GROSCHEN POST-COUVERT—printed in lilac. In the second edition the inscriptions are of the same colours as the embossed stamps. The third edition is distinguishable from the second only by its comparatively imperfect execution. The two former editions should be collected even by beginners, but the last hardly comes within their scope.

It now only remains to state that at the close of the war of 1866 a large portion of the country served by the Thurn and Taxis post-office became incorporated with Prussia. Arrangements were made for the purchase of the remaining privileges of the Prince of Thurn and Taxis, and on the 1st of January, 1867, this monopoly ceased to exist, and was

afterwards merged in the North German Postal Confederation.*

It is worthy of note that, unlike many of the obsolete German stamps, those of Thurn and Taxis have not been sold as remainders, and that, consequently, unused copies have not submitted to that depreciation of value which has made itself felt in respect of the Brunswick and Saxony emissions.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist for February, is, in Baconian phrase, a full number. The articles it contains are all instructive and worthy of careful perusal. The list of "Recent and Undescribed Emissions" opens with engravings of the new Japanese stamps, and a description of them, which in all respects but one is perfectly accurate. The flaw consists in the statement that the increase in size begins with the two sen. In fact this value is of the same dimensions as its companions—the half sen and one sen.

The regulations which govern the impression of the embossed stamp on private post-cards are worth quoting. They are as follows:—

- (1.) The cards must be white,—i.e., not tinted in any way.
- (2.) They must be of the same dimensions as the official post card,—viz., $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches.
- (3.) They must not be thinner than the official post card,—viz., 120 to the inch,—nor thicker than the telegraph card,—viz., 60 to the inch.
- (4.) The words POST CARD, and THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE, must be printed on the face, as on the official post card; but there must be nothing else (the address excepted) printed, written, or otherwise impressed upon the face of the card.
- (5.) All cards must be sent in with evenly cut edges.
- (6.) At the right-hand upper corner of the face of the card, a space measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top edge of the card, and 1 inch from the side, must be left for the stamp; and this space must be left free from print, both on the face and the underside.

A reprinted article from *The Philatelic Journal*, on the rogues who trade in forged stamps, deserves to be generally read. It is only by constant and unflinching exposure of the tribe that good results can be obtained. In the correspondence columns is a letter from "A Victim" of a German swindler—Mr. Ernest Stoltze, jun., of Brunswick. The writer received, one fine morning,

* *The Philatelist*, vol. vi. p. 102.

a packet, via Hamburg and London, the carriage of which amounted to *eight shillings and eightpence*. "I was from home at the time," he observes, "or I would not have received the parcel. No letter or advice of any kind had, or has, come to hand respecting it. The parcel weighed half-a-pound exactly, and contained two sheets entire of the 1 gr. crimson Brunswick adhesive stamps (1865), two cancelled money-order postal cards (Brunswick), and two price circulars; the rest was—coarse brown paper." To this communication the editor of *The Philatelist* appends the following instructive foot-note:—

We opine that the ingenious swindler above mentioned, will not gain much profit by the exercise of his wits. One of his intended victims, residing in Town, immediately on receipt of his eight-and-sixpenny worth of rubbish, proceeded to the carriers' office whence it came; and, under threat of appealing to the authorities, not only obtained the refundment of his money, but succeeded in preventing the transmission of forty or fifty parcels of the same nature to different parties in England. It seems the scamp had agreed with the German post-office to receive six shillings therefrom for each packet; so that, if one half of them had been taken in (like the recipient's) he would have made a tolerable hit. As it is, however, the German authorities are taking up the matter, and doubtless, ere this sees the light, the friendly correspondent of British philatelists will be provided with an apartment at the public expense.

In further continuation of the history of Mr. Stoltze we may mention, on the authority of the *Briefmarken-Anzeiger*, that he recently made his appearance on the Hamburg stamp exchange, and, being in debt to most of the members, they issued a very summary writ of execution, and after a tumultuous scene, he was kicked out of the room. Exit Stoltze with a crest-fallen look by no means counterfeited.

Among the remaining contents of our Brighton contemporary, we must not omit to mention a supplementary article on the envelopes of Germany, by "A Parisian Collector," giving an account of the emissions of the North German Confederation; and another instalment of the invaluable "Spud Papers," by Mr. Pemberton, containing an analysis of a very careful forgery of the Danish 2 R.B.S. blue, of 1851. The specimen which accompanies the description is heavily postmarked, and therefore more liable to deceive. The most prominent distinctive points in this new forgery are: (1) the absence of any dot after the word *POST* (the

genuine stamp showing a broad oblong mark for a period); (2) the utter absence of the pale brown fancy pattern, which in the genuine stamp usually covers the whole surface of the paper; and (3) the absence of the crown watermark.

We notice that, at the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, the abnormal New Zealand (Queen's head placed *between* the shoulders) was shown by its fortunate possessor; but the reporter omits to state what opinion was expressed respecting it by the members present.

The Canadian Philatelist.—The fourth number of this excellent publication is before us. We have read it through, and are much pleased with the matter, style, and arrangement. The number opens with the continuation of a useful article on local stamps, in which the issues of Denmark, Egypt, Finland, and the Fijis are treated of. In a previous chapter of this article the true character of the so-called Canadian locals of Bancroft, Ker, &c., was demonstrated. In the current instalment the information given respecting the Danish and other stamps is thoroughly accurate, and has evidently been compiled with care. If we must object to anything in it, it is to the inclusion of the Danish railway stamps, which are certainly not postals. The article on "Newly-issued Stamps" is not a mere reprint of our own or our contemporaries' descriptions, such as we frequently come across in the American journalettes, but an original and fairly written paper, in which we notice only two errors; the Wissiegonsk stamps are ascribed to Weissenburg, and the issue for Iceland is quoted from the Brussels paper as for *Island*, the editor being uncertain to what group of isles the French name referred. The mistake was a pardonable one. The "Reviews" which follow are characterised by a spirit of courtesy, and the number closes with a paper reprinted from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, of 1865, entitled "A Chat with Juvenile Collectors," and containing advice which is as useful now as it was on the day it was written.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The greater portion of the February number is taken up with the chronicle. This is followed by a paragraph treating of the English postal statistics for

1871-2, to which in turn succeeds an article on the Chilian cards and envelopes, containing absolutely no new information. Under the heading, "The Surcharged 10 Centimes French Republic," the editor describes a curious abortion, to which reference is made in another part of our present number. "Apropos of the New Caledonian Stamps" is the title of a short article in which proof is given that the New Caledonian stamps were issued gummed. The information it contains is worth quoting, more especially as it comes from a gentleman whose official position is a guarantee of its correctness.

About the end of 1862, I think (writes M. Moens' correspondent), the Postmaster-general of Algeria addressed a report to the central office, of which the following is the *résumé*:—The regimental baggage-masters collect the letters which the soldiers in distant localities write to their friends in France. Among the letters which one of these baggage-masters delivered to a post-office, there happened to be one bearing two 10 c. New Caledonian stamps. The postmaster, thinking that the stamps were false, caused inquiry to be made. The sender was found, and was called before the military commandant. He declared that having served in the Marines, and been on duty in New Caledonia, he had bought a sheet at the Porte-de-France post-office to prepay his letters for France as far as Sydney, thence to be carried by the English packet-boat. He showed this sheet which already lacked some stamps. It was retained and sent to the administration at Paris, in order that explanations might be obtained. Specimens were cut from this sheet from time to time, and sent to the foreign post-offices which requested to be furnished with copies of the New Caledonian stamp. The sheet was quite used up some time since. Since my return to Paris I have often had the opportunity of seeing this sheet; it was in fine condition and well gummed.

The number is completed by some remarks on an obliterated French stamp in the possession of "A Parisian Collector," which we defer discussing for the present.

THE INELIGIBLE CLASSES.

THE January number of *La Gazette des Timbres* contains the conclusion of a very instructive article, entitled "Notes on the Methodical Formation of Collections of Stamps." The writer gives the following list of designs or stamps which ought not to receive place in a postage-stamp album:—

1. Vignettes, at first considered by error as stamps (*e. g.*, the Austrian complementaries). These should be definitively excluded.

2. Charity fair stamps and other analogous issues, which are not stamps at all in

the proper acceptation of the word, and can only be regarded as impressions admissible among a collection of engravings, lithographs, or curiosities, but not into a timbrological *collection raisonnées*.

3. Administrative *formulæ*, used in certain post-offices, such as the round scalloped seal of Bremen, and the Bavarian instruction stamps.

4. Certain labels which have been wrongly classed as postage stamps, and are in reality adhesive fiscals (*e. g.*, the Austrian and Lombardo-Venetian journal stamps (arms square), the journal stamps of Parma (6 and 9 cent.), and the French journal stamps).

5. Stamps, which, like the preceding, are fiscal, and which, moreover, instead of being adhesive, are fixed—*i. e.*, struck on the paper on which their presence denotes the payment of a certain sum—(*e. g.*, the *Fogli Esteri* of Sardinia, and the *Bollo Straordinario* of Tuscany).

6. Fancy envelopes, save only those having a direct and well-ascertained connection with postage-stamp history.

7. Stamps of private offices, which represent not a postal service effected by private enterprise in default of the state, but a service performed by an individual exclusively for his own benefit, and corresponding to the state postal service,—(*e. g.*, the pretended Rigi-Kulm and Rigi-Scheideck stamps, &c.)

8. The delivery stamps (*timbres de factage*) issued by sundry companies. These stamps no doubt present a great analogy to those issued by private persons who undertake the transmission of letters, still (says the writer from whom we quote), we think that, strictly speaking, a stamp is an official document created by the state, and it is only on exceptional grounds that the acceptance of one issued by private persons, instead of the state, for the performance of an analogous service, can be permitted, and, in short, that the exception should be limited as closely as possible. The delivery stamps have not the same character, and in any event should form a special subdivision.

Lastly, the able writer of the foregoing remarks concludes against the admission of official frank stamps (such as the Spanish, the German field-post envelopes, &c.), on the

ground which has already been taken in this magazine, that they represent not the payment of, but exemption from, a charge. The writer does not expressly allude to the adhesive official and service stamps, but they are included by implication,—the same arguments applying to them as to the impressed stamps.

Of the stamps placed in the above *index expurgatorius* those comprised in the articles Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 6 most certainly merit exclusion. Impressions which are in no sense of the word postage stamps are completely out of court, and should be pitilessly discarded. As to the class referred to in article No. 4, there is something to be said in favour, at least, of the Austrians. Stamps which represent a so-called *tax* on foreign journals coming into the country, and are obliterated in the post-office, are very much like postage stamps. The idea of taxing journals just as other imported commodities are taxed is a droll one when fairly considered. The charge which the Austrian stamps represent may be called a *tax*, but in its essence it is simply so much extra postage; in other words, the Austrian post-office claims a higher rate for the transport of foreign than it does for home newspapers. Philatelists, looking at the stamps in their true light, continue to collect them, and rightly so in our opinion. The French blue and rose 2 c. journal stamps are admitted by the writer in *La Gazette* to have a double character, but he argues that the fiscal tax being their principal object, and the postal tax an accessory one, they should be ranged with the fiscal emissions. This is matter of opinion, and we should be inclined to leave the question of their dominant attribute an open one.

With regard to class 5, our author is, we think, right, after all, in relegating it to the fiscals. Impressed journal stamps require special certificates of character to entitle them to admission into postage-stamp collections. As to the Rigi and similar stamps which are included in article 7, without discussing their *bonâ-fide* employment, we confess we don't see that the reasons advanced warrant their exclusion. They are condemned because they represent *un service exclusivement individuel correspondant au service postal de l'Etat*. We

quote the original text, lest in our translation we may have unwittingly wandered from the true meaning, for which, in fact, we had to grope. To qualify a local stamp for admission it must, according to the writer in *La Gazette*, be issued for use along a postal route (*ligne postale*) which in default of the state is served by a private office. But it seems to us that as a question of principle it matters little whether one of the termini of a given route be a small town or a large establishment such as the one at Rigi-Kaltbad; and if objection be taken to the Rigi stamps it should rather be because they belong to the class mentioned in article No. 8 of the above list of exceptions as being, in fact, delivery stamps, which represent the cost of carrying letters to or bringing them from the post-office. We certainly take objection to the rule, that of necessity the private office must replace the state; for it may well happen that, for instance, a private steamship company may run its vessels, and carry letters prepaid by its own stamps, between ports to which there is no government service whatever, and it would be hard to deny to such emissions, if duly accredited, the character of *bonâ-fide* postage stamps.

In article 8 the French essayist establishes a justifiable distinction between local stamps issued by private offices—which, as far as they go, entirely replace the state, their operations embracing the collection, transport, and delivery of the letters confided to their care—and stamps issued by offices whose proprietors are only a step higher than street *commissionaires*, who, in fact, confine themselves to collecting their customers' letters and carrying them to the nearest post-office, and bringing back from the post-office the correspondence addressed to their customers. The usefulness of such intermediate agents in large towns is easily perceptible, but it is none the less true that their postal functions are of the most elementary character, and the stamps they may issue ostensibly for the prepayment of their charges are far from being entitled to equal consideration with those of local posts proper.

We have dwelt, perhaps, too long already on the interesting "Note" under review, yet cannot take leave of it without noticing the

writer's argument in favour of the formation of collections with unobliterated specimens only. "The stamp," he reasons, "being, in fact, a kind of paper-money issued by the state for a public service, ought to figure in a collection such as it was fabricated and put in circulation by the state. Just as in numismatical collections those specimens of coins or medals, both ancient and modern, are most sought after, which have best preserved the freshness of their impression, their original diameter, and their primitive weight, so also should the stamp be collected such as it was issued, with all its particularities of gum, perforation, &c." On the other hand it may be argued, that whilst a coin submits to no official change during its circulation, but remains legal tender until it is withdrawn, a

stamp is issued for a given purpose—that of prepaying a letter or journal—and its existence, so to speak, culminates with the apposition of the postmark. It is not, except by favour, a kind of paper-money; although *of value* it is not *of use* until it is attached to a letter, and that letter is dropped into the post-office box. The defender of obliterated stamps may therefore urge that it is preferable to collect a stamp which *has* performed its intended service, rather than one which is merely *capable* of performing it. As far as argument goes we think the advocates of used stamps stand on quite as good ground as their opponents. For our part we should never object on principle to a used stamp, and equally *on principle* we most certainly should not object to an unused one.



NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

JAPAN.—We gave last month a description of all the values of the new series, accompanied by a list of the colours.

We are now in a position to give engravings of all the denominations except the 10 sen. Of the six values the 20 sen is probably that which will be considered the most artistically designed.

The least adept in reading the Japanese numerals will find no difficulty in making out the signs which indicate the value of these stamps, except perhaps those which appear on the $\frac{1}{2}$ sen. The one sen has a single horizontal bar, signifying 1, on the white space in each of the side borders; the 2 sen

has two horizontal bars in the same place; the 10 sens has a cross, standing for 10; the 20 sens has the cross and two horizontal strokes above; and the 30 sens a cross, and three strokes above. All the stamps are irregularly perforated, and printed in colour on a thin yellowish-white paper. Some details respecting the flowers which occupy so large a part in them would not be unacceptable, especially if accompanied by an explanation of the symbolic importance which the Japanese appear to attach to them.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—Make way for the locals! There are several of them waiting to be presented—some new comers, hitherto totally unknown, and others who claim precedence because they were described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in 1871. Assenting to the request of these latter, let us select for introduction the sole value in use in

Kosoletz (Tchernigoff).—Truly not a very

elegant stamp, but of acknowledged merit nevertheless, since it has now been in use some years. M. Moens states that it has been used since 1867, but this can hardly be, since the decree authorising the emission of local stamps, as he himself reminds us in another

place, is dated the 22nd June, 1869, and informal issues are things unknown in Russia. The inscription and frame, which form the whole design of this Kosoletz stamp, are printed in bronze on white paper, unperf.

Kropeevna, or *Krapivna* (Tula).—The arms on this stamp are not easy of comprehension. The Tchern stamp, which comes from the same government, and of which we gave an illustration last month, bears two wheat



sheaves, indicative evidently of the fertility of the district, and we are inclined to believe that the leaves on the *Kropeevna* stamp are those of some staple of the country. The

horse-shoe inscription signifies *KROPEEVNA RURAL POST*, and the words below the shield express the value. Below them again is the abbreviation *NO.*, followed, on the specimen whence our illustration is engraved, by a rotation number, written by hand, in black ink. From this it is evident that the circulation of the stamps must be very limited. The impression is in blue on a white paper bearing a *quadrillé* pattern.

Kotelnich (Viatka).—A somewhat imperfect description of two stamps issued for this district was given in our 1871 list. M. Moens has obtained specimens of both, and also of two others, which he believes to be of earlier date. We will take the stamps in the order in which he describes them:—

1st Series.—Type I.—Divided into two parts, separated by a fancy design, the right containing

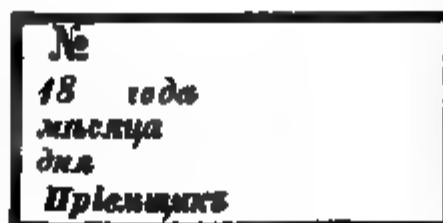
an inscribed double circle, within a square;—in the centre 3 *KOP.*, and slanting figure of value in each angle; the left containing the following inscription:—

No.
Year 18—
Month
Day
Postmaster

within a rectangle. It is probable that only the right half was attached to the letter, the left being detached, and either given to the sender as a receipt, or kept by the receiving post-office. This first type was intended for letters circulating within the district, and was printed in black on bluish grey paper.

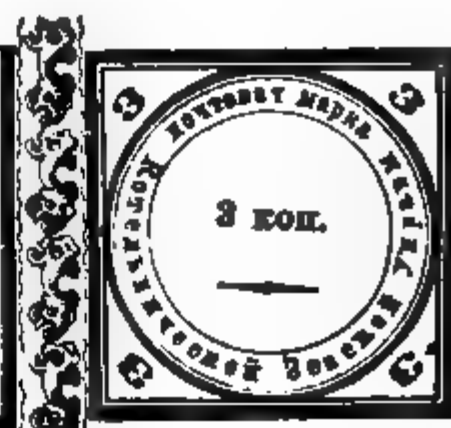
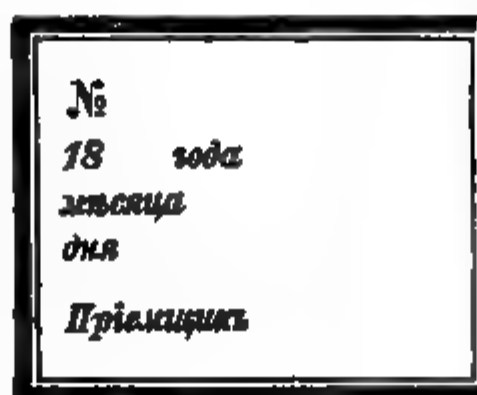
3 kop. bluish grey.

Type II.—Same arrangement as in the



first type. The inscription is abridged, and is in an oblong oval, and the corner figures are upright. The entire stamp is smaller, and the fancy pattern is continued uninterruptedly between the four stamps contained on a sheet, whilst in the first type this pattern breaks off with each stamp. Type II., printed in black on a glazed orange-vermilion paper, was destined for letters to other districts.

3 kop. orange-vermilion.



The four stamps which go to a sheet, form as many varieties, distinguished as follows:—

Var. 1.—The figure 3 approaches the oval, and under the value are 8 balls, or pearls, with a pointed ornament (lance-head) at each end.

Var. 2.—Instead of 8 balls there is a small square, between two lance-heads (see our engraving).

Var. 3.—Like 2, but the lance-heads much larger. There are also various differences in the disposition of the legend, and the words 3 KOP. take an upward direction towards the right.

Var. 4.—The words 3 KOP. are directed downwards, and the lance-heads are separated by a ball.

2nd Series.—This series possesses only one single type (lithographed), which is here represented, and it will be seen that the design is an improvement, in its way, on those of the first series. The oval does not fill the oblong, it is shaded, a dotted ground is added, and some attempt made to render the corners ornamental. The central figure and the frame are in black; the rest of the design is in colour. There are two stamps of the same facial value—one for letters in the issuing district, and the other for letters to other districts.

3 kop.	blue and black.
3 "	yellow and black.

The 3 kop. bluish grey (1st series) and the 3 kop. yellow (2nd series) are not gummed; the 3 kop. orange-vermilion (1st series) has the right half gummed, and the 3 kop. blue (2nd series) is gummed all over.



Rostoff on Don (Ekaterinoslav).—Another old-new stamp, issued on the 7th May, 1871, and still in use. The design is a very modest one. The inscription reads thus: RURAL POSTAGE STAMP—FIVE KOP.—ROSTOFF ON DON. Printed blue on white.

Bogorodsk.—The stamps of the new type,

which we noticed last month, are further distinguished from their predecessors by their having three rows of balls, instead of the four balls which figure in the old types at the bottom of the oval. The new stamps are also a millimetre shorter than the old, and are printed on thick white paper.

WURTEMBERG.—We learn from *La Gazette* that an unperforated stamp of the old arms-in-relief type has just been issued,—value 70 kreuzers, violet, printed on thick, white paper, and intended for the prepayment of letters on which the postage amounts to more than 69 kreuzers, and we presume (although *La Gazette* does not say so) not more than 70 kreuzers; some better or fuller explanation of the issue of this stamp is needed. That it partakes of an official character is evident from the fact

that it is not sold to the public, but attached by the postal employés.

La Gazette notices the issue of a new 9 kr. stamp, bistre, line-pierced, and of the type already in circulation. The 2 kr. orange-yellow, referred to in our last, has made its appearance.

GERMANY.—The annexed engraving represents the stamp impressed in brown on the new German cards. *The Philatelist* doubts the genuineness of the two $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen envelopes we described last month, and *Le Timbre Poste* suggests that they may be issued for the Royal Society of Invalids, Berlin.

As yet we possess no positive evidence as to the character of these envelopes, but we believe that they are stamped by the German Postal Administration to the order of private individuals, in the same way as the higher values of English envelopes are stamped at Somerset House; and for our own part we

have no doubt of their being perfectly genuine.

BAVARIA.—The 12 kr. is no longer in use. Since the 1st January its place has been occupied by a 10 kr. yellow, of the same type, and the 9 kreuzer, which had been withdrawn from circulation, reappears in reddish brown. Both these novelties are watermarked and perforated like the current stamps.

GUATEMALA.—Four years since, some pen-marked stamps, bearing a design evidently copied from Hulot's well-known type, made their appearance, and were promptly and generally condemned as forgeries. These stamps now reappear, authentically postmarked, upon letters which have come straight from Guatemala. Of their

genuineness there appears no reason to doubt; it is, however, very possible that they may be fiscals. They bear a French inscription—**TIMBRE DE GUATEMALA**—sufficient in itself to justify the suspicion which they formerly excited, and which gives colouring to the hypothesis that the stamps are a revenue series. The 4 reales, of which we give an engraving, is copied from one of four stamps which were taken off a letter by M. Moens, from whose journal we obtain these details: "Their authenticity being attested," says M. Moens, "we requested our correspondent to favour us with a sight of the stamps he had communicated in 1869, and which we then judged to be false. On comparison, we find our 4 rls. conforms, in all respects, to the one we had examined four years ago, and we also find that there are in all five values:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ real	brick.
2 "	orange-yellow.
4 "	blue.
1 peso	green.
2 "	rose, pale.

These five values form as many types; they differ from each other in the shape of the shield and the groundwork. They are all lithographed." Not only the inscription, but also the high values, and the fact that on the 1 peso green, examined by M. Moens,

traces of a signature were found, point to the supposition that this was, at any rate, originally a revenue series. Of the five values we at present know of, only one—the 4 rls.—is being utilised for postal purposes; and it is strange that it should be so utilised at the very moment when another 4 reales of the new type, recently engraved by us, is issued.

MAURITIUS.—We congratulate ourselves on being first in the field with engravings of the

new and handsome Mauritius envelopes, of which the forthcoming emission was noticed in our last volume. These finely cut stamps carry their origin on their faces. They are engraved by De La Rue & Co., who appear to be fast monopolising the manufacture of postage and other stamps for the colonies. The colours of these two new values are—

Tenpence	maroon.
One-and-eightpence	blue.

They will form a brilliant addition to an already brilliant page.

FRANCE.—To the list of embryonic provisionals must be added a 10 c. bistre, head of liberty, 1848 type, with the value in words, **DIX CENTIMES**, printed in black across the face. Most provisionals are formed by a surcharge expressing a new value, but, in this instance, the surcharge consists of a repetition of the original denomination. The solution of this riddle, as afforded by our Belgian contemporary, is very simple. At the end of the year 1871, the 10 c. bistre, was "out of work," having been superseded by the 15 c. of the same colour, and New Year's Day was at hand. On that day a vast number of visiting cards are sent through the post in France, and the postage of the same, in open envelopes, is 10 centimes, from one town to

another. For want of a 10 c. stamp the senders would have to use two 5 c. stamps, and just at that moment it happened that the supply of the 5 c. ran short. M. Hulot, the post-office magician, was applied to, and in a short time he turned out three millions of 10 c., surcharged as above mentioned, but they were never used, because he was also able to get ready a sufficient number of 5 c. The reason for surcharging the 10 c. with its own value was to guard against the confusion which would have arisen from its employment contemporaneously with the 15 c., and the deception which might have been practised on the postal officials.

RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

II.

"THERE is now coming on a mania for collecting everything that looks like a stamp, no matter how preposterous or absurd in idea or nature. The present mania is commencing with bung-labels and physic stamps, and will finish with reel-tops and the lunatic asylum." *The Philatelic Journal*, p. 185.

IN our former ramble we endeavoured to show the fallacy of a collector ever imagining that he can arrive at anything approaching to completeness in making a collection of fiscal stamps; for the nature of the stamps themselves renders it an impossibility. Such a collection would have no cohesion, but at the very best it must be a gathering together of sparse and scattered specimens of die-sinking and engraving, which may be found in a thousand objects more worthy of collection. We also suggested, that as our continental friends had stated certain definitions, to include the collection of fiscals, they could scarcely, under the terms of their definitions, exclude the collection of railway tickets, which in our own opinion would be more instructive and interesting than the collection of many kinds of fiscals.

If we did not fatigue our readers in our last ramble, we will now ask them to accompany us again in one amongst a class of stamps which we said were of a hybrid nature, neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, and which, if tested by the definition of a fiscal stamp, as given by the writer of the articles in the

Gazette des Timbres, can scarcely be regarded as fiscal. In this case, the impost is applied to the thing manufactured, and before it is sold the payment of the duty must be denoted by a stamp being affixed to it, purchased from the government, or some one representing the government. In England, these stamps are of two kinds only—the stamps on patent medicines and on playing cards. In the United States, which is so prolific in stamps—and where they seem like truffles, that only want hunting for to be found—our readers will not be very much surprised to hear that the field is larger, and is capable also of almost indefinite extension—a source, no doubt, of great consolation to amateurs of such like stamps.

We know—or, perhaps, some of us do not know, but, at any rate, our fathers did—how that during the times of the war with France, the stamps and taxes were a very unpleasant, but by no means a singular, concomitant of our dogged resolution to overthrow Napoleon. Many modes of tooth-drawing, more or less painful, were invented by the chancellors of the exchequer of those days. Matches, fortunately, only then existed as slips of wood dipped in brimstone, and were frequently manufactured at home, or for a certainty a more successful raid would have been made upon them then than that attempted by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer; but the stamp duty on patent medicines remains as it was when imposed in 1810; that on playing cards, which is of more ancient date, has been modified recently.

The secession war in America, like all civil wars, was an expensive thing of its kind. Our transatlantic cousins, however, set themselves to work with a will to find means, not only for paying the interest of its cost, but the principal also; and for this purpose every conceivable thing that could be taxed was ordained to contribute its quota. Stamp duties furnish no inconsiderable portion of this. Some, it is true, existed prior to the war, but the greater part were called into existence by the necessities created by it. Some were borrowed from English precedents, while others are due to the fertile genius and inventive brains of the Americans themselves. We need scarcely say that there

are duties on dealings with property, both real and personal, that are collected by stamps impressed and adhesive. There are also duties on other articles, such as tobacco, snuff, beer, &c., where the duties are also collected by stamps. The stamps on tobacco are very similar to those formerly used in England for the collection of the duty on paper, and affixed to each ream of paper liable to the payment of duty. These stamps were issued and signed by the officers of excise in the same way as the tobacco stamps in the United States. Surely, then, if tobacco stamps are collected, the same favour should be extended to their pioneer—the English paper-duty stamps. The duty on beer in England, when it existed, was collected in the same way as the duties on home-made spirits; but in the United States it is collected by means of a stamp placed over the bung of the barrel, the removal of which from it when full is felony. “Bung labels” may therefore be considered as being the exclusive invention of the treasury tooth-drawers of the United States.

But besides the above, there is a class of stamps called proprietary stamps, which form the subject of a recent article in the *Gazette des Timbres*, by Dr. Magnus, who earnestly advocates their collection. It appears from this, that in the United States the manufacturers of matches, of perfumery, and various other articles, as also the owner of any patent medicine, may, on paying a certain sum for the cost of engraving into the hands of the government, have a stamp prepared and printed according to any design he may furnish; so that, not only is the number of these stamps legion, and may be indefinitely increased, but they may be, and are, employed as an advertisement for the parties using them, and in the case of patent medicines are sometimes degraded into a puff of all sorts of quackery, the crop of which is quite as plentiful in the United States as elsewhere.

The learned doctor, after a rapid glance at the stamps on playing cards and matches, which we purpose noticing hereafter, dives, *en amore*, into those on patent medicines, winding up his description with the enthusiastic exclamation: “It is impossible to imagine the interest attaching to the search after these

stamps; and their incontestable fiscal character justifies the collection of them.”

The article is illustrated by a representation of an elaborate engraving intended to figure on the bottles of “F. Brown’s Essence of Jamaica Ginger,” and of another equally elaborate engraving, to be applied to the boxes of “Dr. Herrick’s Sugar-coated Pills,” with a portrait of, we suppose, Dr. Herrick in the centre. Each of the stamps also bears minute directions as to the doses to be given, and in the case of the ginger they are directed to be administered in sugar and water. A third representation is that of a stamp on which is the knave of clubs; but this has evidently found its way amongst the “doctor’s stuff” stamps by mistake, and belongs to the stamps on playing cards. On the two stamps first mentioned an inscription tells us the amount of duty chargeable, but this is quite subservient to the rest of the design. On the whole, they are fair specimens of the genus, and, without enumerating others which have fallen under our own notice, are, we think, sufficient to satisfy our readers of the absurdity of collecting bottle and pill-box labels, and such like advertising puffs, under the guise of stamps.

This stamp duty on patent medicines was no doubt borrowed from England, where it has been imposed for the last sixty years. The language of the Act of Parliament (52 Geo. III., c. 150) is so very terse, that we can confidently recommend it as a model to the countries of codes. The Act, after enumerating a number of articles subjected to the duties, proceeds:—

And also all other Pills, Powders, Lozenges, Tinctures, Potions, Cordials, Electuaries, Plaisters, Unguents, Salves, Ointments, Drops, Lotions, Oils, Spirits, Medicated Herbs and Waters, Chemical and Official Preparations, whatsoever, to be used or applied externally or internally as Medicines or Medicants for the Prevention, Cure, or Relief of any Disorder or Complaint incident to, or in anywise affecting the Human Body, made, prepared, uttered, vended or exposed to sale by any Person or Persons whatsoever, wherein the Person, making, preparing, uttering, vending or exposing to sale the same, hath or claims to have any occult Secret or Art for the making or preparing the same, or hath or claims to have any exclusive Right or Title to the making or preparing the same, or which have at any time heretofore been, now are, or shall hereafter be prepared, uttered, vended, or exposed to sale under the authority of any Letters Patent under the Great Seal, or which have at any time heretofore been, now are, or shall hereafter be by any Public Notice or Advertisement, or by any written or

Printed Papers or Handbills, or by any Label or Words written or printed, affixed to or delivered with any Packet, Box, Bottle, Phial, or other inclosure containing the same, held out or recommended to the Public by the Makers, Vendors, or Proprietors thereof, as Nostrums, or Proprietary Medicines, or as Specifics, or as beneficial to the Prevention, Cure, or Relief of any Distemper, Malady, Ailment, Disorder, or Complaint incident to or in anywise affecting the Human Body.

The duties levied by the Act are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
On articles to the value of 1s.....	0	0	1½
From 1s. to 2s. 6d.	0	0	3
„ 2s. 6d. „ 4s.	0	0	6
„ 4s. „ 10s.	0	1	0
„ 10s. „ 20s.	0	2	0
„ 20s. „ 30s.	0	3	0
„ 30s. „ 50s.	0	10	0
„ 50s. upwards	1	0	0

Stamped labels of the above values are issued by the stamp-office, to be fixed on the article, so that the contents cannot be removed without *tearing* the Stamp. The penalty in all cases is £10.

The stamps themselves are uniform in design, and this is of a most unpretentious nature; they are printed in red and black, after the mode of Mr. Whiting, and do not display that pleasing variety so remarkable in the physic stamps of the United States, in which also the puff forms a part of the stamp. Whether the design now in use is the same as that employed in 1810, when the duties were first imposed, or whether there may be one or more obsolete series, we are unable to say; but the actual type has been in use, to our own recollection, for forty years, where it is mixed up with certain reminiscences of boxes of "Shepherd's Black Currant Lozenges," cheaply purchased at the expense of a sore throat; though our memory fails us when we try to carry it farther back to a certain "Soothing Syrup," highly recommended to arrest infantine attempts at producing undue development of the lungs. If, then, the physic stamps of the United States are to be collected, on what ground, we ask, are the English physic stamps, the distinguished ancestors of the whole tribe of physic stamps and adhesives, to be ignored?

We have said that the physic stamps of the United States can be indefinitely multiplied. In fact, each collector might, on paying the necessary expense, have a stamp peculiar to himself. Further than this, any person desirous of advertising or puffing,

can do it under the guise of a stamp. Suppose any American Dr. Squeers were desirous of advertising his establishment, he has only to take Mrs. Squeers's celebrated prescription,

R. Sulph: flor: ℥iv.
Theriacæ ℥iv.

Fiat electuarium. Cochl: magnum j omne die mane sumend:

and set forth the preparation as a special cure for external and internal irritation in young people; and he can ornament the pots with a stamp of any design he pleases, including one of Dotheboy's Hall itself, the whole served up with a puff of any amplitude.

Fellow-rambler, do you not feel sick of physic? Our advice, offered gratis, is not to touch its stamps, but to leave them to the doctors and the druggists.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, the 1st ultimo, a general meeting was held at Dr. Viner's, 34, Denbigh Street, in accordance with an official notice to all existing members, for the purpose of making arrangements for remodelling this society. It was proposed by the president, Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., and resolved unanimously, that, in consequence of the inconvenience of corresponding with foreign and country members without employing the services of a paid secretary, which would entail too great an expense, the society be dissolved, and reconstituted. It was therefore settled, that the balance remaining in the hands of the acting honorary secretary be expended in purchasing sets of certain newly-issued stamps for presentation to retiring members, according to the amount of their paid subscriptions, but that the meetings should continue to be held at the above address, about once a month, of which due notice should be given in the magazines, at which all philatelists would be welcome to attend, without the payment of any subscription, for the comparison of specimens, and for other objects of philatelic interest.

To the said meeting, the attending members brought their collections of English stamps; the president exhibiting some choice

proofs of hitherto inedited Mulready varieties. Dr. Viner showed upwards of two hundred and fifty varieties of the envelopes, wrappers, and post cards of Great Britain.

The first meeting of the society under its new aspect took place on the 22nd ultimo, when the emissions of Egypt and of Western and Southern Africa were exhibited. The next will be held on Saturday, the 15th of this month, at 2.30, to which any philatelist is invited to be present. The stamps of India, Cashmere, the Deccan, and the Mauritius to be shown.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Oppen's Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue.
Seventeenth Edition. Edited by DR. VINER.
London: W. Stevens.

THIS old-established favourite again calls for notice. Less than seven years ago the editorship of the volume passed into the care of Dr. Viner, and since then ten editions have been issued—a fact which tells its own tale as to the sterling worth of the book. It is almost superfluous to say that the edition before us is carefully brought up to the time of going to press. Spaces are provided in the album for all the most recent emissions, including Iceland, Curaçoa, Surinam, Portuguese Indies, &c.; and in the catalogue such novelties as the new Roumanian set, the 2½ gr. and 9 kr. German Empire, and the one franc Luxembourg, find place. After careful scrutiny we fail to discover a single flaw in the album, and the ample space allotted to each country, will, for some time to come, secure those who may patronise it against the annoyance so often experienced of not having room for future issues. On turning to the catalogue we notice a few points which we would suggest for the consideration of the editor against he is called on to prepare the eighteenth edition.

(i.) *The consistent recognition or rejection of minor varieties.*—At present perforation is only occasionally noticed, e.g., Danubian Principalities, Heligoland, &c. Sometimes, as in the current French, no distinction is made between lithographed and engraved stamps, while under Hungary we find both kinds described. Under Mecklenburg Schwerin only one set of envelopes is mentioned, while Wurtemberg is duly credited with two sets, differing only in the size of their inscriptions.

(ii.) *The abolition of "vermin,"* such as British (except

Keble College), Dresden, Leitmeritz, and United States locals known to be false, from the list.

(iii.) The following are omitted: Sardinia early covers, two sets. Guadalajara, medio real. Montevideo, "diligencia" set and provisional set. New Granada, 1867, 25 c. black on grey.

(iv.) *Addenda and corrigenda.*—The Swiss Rayons and Poste Locale 2½ have only one of their number, viz., Rayon III., with value in cents as well as in rappen. The 50 kr. and 50 sol. Austrian envelopes, Antioquia 25 c., Tolima (oblong) 20 c., are all creations of the editorial brain. Of Austria adhesive, 1867, 25 kr., there are two distinct colours. Danubian Principalities, 1865, 20 paras, is found in pink and carmine. The Portuguese Indies, 100 r., is found in yellow-green and dark sap-green. The Russian local for Louga is an adhesive, not an envelope. The British Guiana "newspaper" should be "provisional."

In conclusion, we have only to add that the paper, printing, and binding being of the best, the result is a very handsome volume.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

NEW GRANADA.—M. Moens considers the frequent issues which take place as the indirect consequence of the frequent changes which are made in the staff of the Colombian post-office—changes which, combined with the irregularity of delivery and the general disorder in that department, have pretty nearly destroyed the confidence of the public in its efficiency.—*The Philatelist.*

PRESIDENT GRANT AND THE POSTAGE STAMPS.—Some time ago two youths of Bern addressed a letter to President Grant, asking him to aid them in gathering a collection of American postage stamps. A few days ago the said youths unexpectedly received, through the American envoy at Berne, a fine assortment of United States stamps, accompanied by a letter, in which the President said that his many duties had prevented him undertaking the collection himself, and that therefore his youngest son had taken the matter in hand.—*Swiss Times.*

UNITED STATES POSTAL CARDS.—We are told by *The New York Herald*, that letters are daily being received at the Post Office Department, asking when the postal cards will be ready. New York merchants have made application for over two millions, which are to be used as advertising cards. Firms in Boston, Providence, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and, in fact, all the large cities, have similar requests filed; and it is believed that at least one half the first lot (fifty millions) will be immediately disposed of to corporations and business houses, to be used as a cheap means of advertising.

NOVEL USE OF GUMMED PAPER.—"We were aware," says *The Echo du Nord*, "that the gummed paper bordering postage stamp sheets might be used in numberless ways, but we were ignorant of that mentioned by M. Paul Aquarone, of Toulon, an ardent amateur of birds. It is well to make it known, for it may prove of great service at the hatching season to breeders of poultry, &c. 'Whenever I meet with a cracked egg,' says M. Aquarone, 'and find its shell-membrane intact, I stick over the crack a small strip of paper cut from the margin of a sheet of postage stamps, and I put my egg away for incubation. Every egg thus patched up succeeds with me eight times out of ten. As much care as possible must, however, be taken to employ paper of the same colour as the egg, which is not a very difficult matter, considering

the numerous colours afforded by the various values of postage stamps. Without this precaution, the hen-bird, should the difference of shade be too marked, tries to remove the paper, when she generally breaks the egg."

CORRESPONDENCE BY NEWSPAPER.—The story of the young Irish girl who managed to obtain news of her lover by means of unpaid letters, which she never took in, has passed into history. A friend of ours has recounted to us an equally ingenious and amusing, though, in strictness, a less justifiable method, which he once employed in order to exchange communications at lower rates than those authorised by the post-office. When quite a young man, some eighteen or twenty years ago, he was in the United States, and was in the habit of corresponding with a young lady in the old country. At that time, be it remembered, the postage between the two countries was a shilling per half ounce letter. Whenever he received a letter from the object of his affections, he acknowledged receipt of it by sending a newspaper. He prepaid the postage thereon by means of two stamps, of low value, and wrote a brief reply, in a microscopic hand, across the space which the two stamps were intended to cover. He assures us that with care he used to get a great deal into that space, and this we quite believe. When the newspaper reached its destination the young lady had only to get off the stamps by moistening the back of the sheet, and the eagerly awaited epistle was exposed to view. Needless to add that the fair recipient, when she received a letter from the United States, acknowledged it in the same manner. We might have felt some qualms at initiating the public into this clever invention, but the postage to and from all civilized countries is now so low that such a practice as the one above described would hardly pay for the trouble.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DATE OF ISSUE OF THE THIRD PARMESAN SERIES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I notice that Dr. Gray, in the fifth edition of his valuable catalogue, gives the date of the Parma, fleur-de-lis in oval, inscribed DUC DI PARMA PIAC. ECC., as 1858. I have a specimen of the 25 c. brown of this issue, postmarked PARMA, 12 Nov., '57.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

Winchester.

H. ST. C. F.

[The 25 c. and 40 c. were, we believe, issued in January, 1857, and the 15 c. in the November following.—ED.]

THE QUESTIONABLE ECUADOR STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I must confess I look upon the new Ecuador stamps with great suspicion. By comparing the $\frac{1}{2}$ real and 1 peso with the Haitian impostor, it will be seen that the similarity of design is very great, particularly in the $\frac{1}{2}$ real; their perforation, also (11), is the same as that of a specimen of the above-mentioned impostor which I have by me. The 1 real, however, I am inclined to think genuine; (1.) From its difference in design; (2.) Because it appeared by itself, and not in company of the other two values. If this be true, what more likely than that the forgers, having heard of the emission of a 1 real stamp, but being ignorant of its design, should forthwith proceed to forge two other values, and by ingeniously setting them afloat at the same time as the genuine stamps appeared, attempt to entice the

philatelic public into accepting them as genuine. Trusting this may be of some use,

I remain,

Yours truly,

VERITAS.

Darlington.

NEW GRANADA "SOBRE-PORTE," 1868 STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—We are all familiar with the unsullied faces of the above stamps, on which, with your permission, I wish to make a few remarks. For many years I have had correspondents in the republic who have sent me over many hundreds of stamps of all issues and values, but, strange to relate, not one of the reputed 1868 "Sobre-Porte" set has ever been amongst them. Yet, more surprising, I have never been able to buy them at Bogota, though, *perhaps*, I may have always hit on dates when they were out of stock. Most surprising of all, my correspondents, two of whom are intelligent collectors, profess entire ignorance of the set. Now, sir, how are these things to be accounted for? Are my friends, think you, hoaxing me? Have they any plot to make a used stamp of this series as rare, say, as a green Bolivar? Do help me.

Meanwhile let me call your attention to a little matter based on the copies which, through another channel, I have obtained. We all know that the lowest portion of the shield containing the Colombian arms is occupied by an isthmus, with a ship on each side. This is clear on many stamps, and visible to an instructed eye on all, even when the impression is from a very worn stone.

But now turn to your copies of the "rare" set under discussion. In the first place, you have not lithographs, but woodcuts. Next, not impressions from worn blocks, but prints as clear as they conceivably can be. Further, note the place of our friend, the isthmus, and its attendant ships—what *has* happened? Verily, to a tyro eye, though of course not to yours, is presented, a shapeless something, not more definitely to be described, as though the engraver had never understood the arms he was engaged to depict. This same conclusion is also further strengthened by an examination of the topmost division of the shield. There we *ought* to find two cornucopias, with a pomegranate (?) between them. But what *do* we find? Why plenty of horns, rather than horns of plenty! Again, sir, I appeal to you—you who have warned unwary gulls aforetime—to say to what all this points. English dealers, in my experience, do not sell these stamps: my copies came from Brussels long years ago, as, may be, yours did too; so if you have any curiosity about their parentage, I hope you will allow me, through your columns, to appeal to their introducer to give an account of his *protégés*.

Yours humbly,

ANTI-HUMBUG.

P.S.—A friend suggests a solution worth noticing: "Probably they are not Colombian stamps at all, but *Moresnetians*!"

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. F., Liverpool.—The Sardinian issue of 1854-5 has the king's profile on a white oval, and all the rest of the stamp is in colour, inscriptions included.

V. C., London.—The Guatemala stamps you describe are well known, and there is not the least doubt about their genuineness. It is respecting two new values that discussion has arisen, *because* they differed so widely from the authentic type.

RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

III.

IN our last ramble we pointed out that the stamp duties on physic were not an American invention, but had existed in England for many years. In fact, the label issued by the stamp-office is, we believe, the earliest adhesive stamp ever issued in England and sold to the public for revenue purposes. We also endeavoured to show the puerility of collecting such stamps, especially the American ones, which latter were practically inexhaustible, as they could be manufactured to anyone's order, to anyone's taste, and to cover even such prescriptions as that of Mrs. Squeers; or even for no earthly purpose whatever, except to minister to the vanity of the proprietors, by a display of their portraits, or to provide for the yearnings of collectors.* We will now see how the second of that species of stamp, which is applied to the article taxed prior to its sale, is worthy of collection,—we mean the stamps on playing cards.

Dr. Magnus tells us that the stamp duty on playing cards in the States is five cents on each pack; and he gives a list of the stamps as follows:—

1 cent	red.
2 „	blue and orange.
3 „	green.
4 „	violet.
5 „	red.

This *may* be all right, and we do not dispute it, for we have no *data* wherewith to do so. Our business is not with the American stamps, but with the English. We will only remark that we have *never seen* card stamps of 1 cent, 2 cents, or 3 cents. We have seen an old copy of 4 cents in black, and copies of 5 cents in blue, green, and black, as also a 10 cents in blue; we think, therefore, that there is no colour specially set apart for the different values, but that this is left to the fancy of the person who orders

* Since our last ramble, we have had an opportunity of looking over a large collection of physic stamps. Were we to judge from them we should say that wind and worms were very prevalent in the States, and that there was a pretty considerable call for bitters.

them from the government “bureau of engraving and printing.”

Now the duties on playing cards are far from being an American invention, any more than those upon patent medicines. The existence of a duty on playing cards in England, dates from rather a remote period. It certainly existed in the time of Queen Anne; and if the duties were then taken by stamps, probably a specimen would be far more difficult to obtain than some other rarities of that reign, the search after which drives numismatists half crazy. But for our purpose it will, we think, be superfluous to go back beyond our own recollections. Within them we can find field enough and to spare even to satisfy such of our continental friends as are hungry after such things, and therefore we shall start from the law as it existed previously to 1862, when the duties established in 1828 by the Act 9 Geo. III., c. 18, were altered.

By the Act passed in 1828, a duty of one shilling was imposed on every pack of cards. The 4th section of the Act provided that this duty should be denoted on the ace of spades, which was constituted the stamp. Each manufacturer supplied his own plates to the stamp-office, each plate containing twenty aces of spades, of a design approved of by the authorities of the stamp-office, with the words “Duty One Shilling” forming part of the design. The manufacturer also sent to the stamp-office paper sufficient for the number of copies required, and the stamp-office printed them off, charging the manufacturer £1 for every sheet of twenty aces.

The Act also provided that the pack containing one such ace of spades should be wrapped up in a *jew*,† the design of which had been previously submitted to, and approved of by, the stamp authorities. The pack was then tied with a thread, and an officer of the commissioners affixed a label on each pack, to guard against the possibility

† Some of our readers may not comprehend this provision of the Act, “that the pack should be wrapped up in a *jew*,” and may possibly think it should have been reversed. The Act, however, explains that a *jew* is the technical term for a wrapper. What the etymology of the word is, we are unable to say, but we strongly suspect it has more to do with *jew* than with the descendants of Abraham.

of the pack being opened, and the ace of spades removed before being sent out for sale. The Act further contained various anathemas against persons contravening its enactments, condemning to the punishment of death anyone found guilty of forging the stamps created in virtue of its provisions.

This law continued in force until the year 1862, when the duties were altered, and reduced by Act 25 Vict., c. 22, to threepence on each pack of cards. The ace of spades also was no longer the stamp, but it was provided that each pack should be enclosed in a wrapper furnished by the stamp-office. For this purpose each manufacturer of cards furnishes to the stamp-office a certain number of plates of a design regulated by the authorities, and when he requires a supply of covers, they are printed for him by the office. The Act provides that this cover or wrapper shall bear the name of the manufacturer; but though each manufacturer furnishes his own plates, yet the general design is the same for all, and all the wrappers are cut to the same shape. They are printed in blue, on thin, tough paper, and the engraving is the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co. The greater part of the design consists of flower and scroll work, with other engine-turned ornaments, and two anathematical notices, enjoining the destruction of the wrapper by the party opening the pack, and the cancellation of the stamp by the vendor of the pack.* The portion of the design appropriated to the stamp is the point of the tail of a bat-like design. The centre of the wrapper is cut away in an oval form, to show the internal wrapper of the manufacturer, and serves as a sort of framing to a picture of the Great Mogul, the Valiant Highlander, &c., as the case may be.

Having thus pointed out the provisions of

* These sensational notices were not required under the former system, the duties being taken, as we have seen, in a different manner. They much resemble those on the notes of the Bank of France, where we are told twice over, once in small letters, and once in capitals, that the law punishes the forger with hard labour for life. We should think such notices would have about as much effect in deterring an intending transgressor, as one of a similar nature affixed above the packet would have on any of the Bill Sikes fraternity who was contemplating an unlawful appropriation of its contents.

the laws governing the stamps on cards in England, we will now examine shortly where a collector of stamps on cards would be landed, supposing he were to attempt to make a collection of English card stamps.

In the first place, taking the law as it stood from 1828 to 1862, during which time the stamp duty was denoted by the ace of spades, he would be compelled to form a rather extensive collection of aces of spades, considering that each manufacturer of cards must have supplied a considerable number of plates to the stamp-office during that period, each plate containing 20 aces differing, most probably, one from another in some minute particulars. As we are sure that no continental collector could overlook the design on the back of the new Mexican postage stamps, so, in like manner, he could not ignore the existence of the charming variety of designs and colours on the backs of the numerous *chefs d'œuvres* emanating from the *ateliers* of De La Rue, Goodall, Willis, Hunt, &c., &c. We have, then, the different varieties of paper, and during a space of thirty-four years, this must have varied much. In fact, we have all the following elements of varieties: the number of card-makers, the number of plates furnished by each manufacturer, the number of designs on the backs, and the various kinds of paper; the whole being multiplied by twenty, for the varieties of type of the *as*† on each plate. Any collector arriving at a hundredth part of this, ought, in his old age, to be presented with the freedom of the Honourable Company of Cardmakers, if certified still to be of a sound mind.

The collection of the stamps under the law of 1862 is not so laborious. We are not aware that any alteration in the general design of the stamped cover has been made since it was first issued. The varieties are therefore confined to the simple sum of the number of card manufacturers, multiplied by the number of plates supplied by each. The stamp itself, as we have seen, forms an integral part of the wrapper, and the whole must be collected together. The dimensions and shape are, it is true, rather awkward for collection; it

† French for *ace*. Nothing to do with the quadruped or the collector.

measures $9\frac{1}{8}$ inches from the extremity of one wing to that of the other, and $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the tip of the tail to the extremity of the head; but as the number is fortunately limited, not more than one large-sized volume would be required for an entire collection!

One word more before we cease our ramble. Though the invention of physic and card stamps does not hail from the West, yet there is one other stamp to be noticed, coming under this same category—that on matches—which had its origin in the States. More than three-fourths of these stamps bear a portrait of what we suppose to be the matchmaker himself, got up in his best style, possibly as an advertisement to kindle a flame for another kind of match. Efforts were made to impose this duty in England, but greater efforts were made to prevent the imposition. We fancy, ourselves, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in error in riding his own hobby with a uniform stamp. Had he permitted the male and female matchmakers in England to have employed a stamp with their own individualities upon it, we cannot but think that his attempt would have been more successful.

The match duty forms part of the present French budget of ways and means, but the design of the stamp is not remarkable, further than it is inferior, in point of execution, to the ordinary reel-tops, especially those on the commoner kinds of cotton.

Since writing the above we have received an interesting communication from a zealous fellow-collector in New York, who writes us that although he collects everything pertaining directly or indirectly to postage stamps, yet he has not been “rash enough to go in for physic stamps, or beer stamps, or war envelopes.” Though he possesses a goodly collection of proprietary stamps, given to him from time to time by a druggist, yet he uses them only as a bait to catch postage stamps.

He then goes on to say that the system of proprietary stamps is in reality a stamp duty of one cent on an article of the price of 25 cents; or a duty of four per cent. on the price. “On playing cards the duty is five

cents on every package. What any other values have reference to I do not know, unless that at first the cards were taxed according to their retail price; or else that imported cards are so taxed.

“A private proprietary stamp is a privilege to the individual. He may choose the design or colours, or designate so many values, but the government has supreme control over the plate, paper, and printing of the stamps, just as it has over its own stamps, and the stamps must be ordered from the government and paid for by the individual. Furthermore, the government will not allow an individual a private stamp unless he can order a certain number—5000, if I mistake not.”

He concludes by saying that the internal revenue stamps, including all proprietary stamps, will not last much longer. Like the postage stamp currency they will become a thing of the past.

OBLITERATION MARKS (MATA-SELLOS) ON SPANISH STAMPS.

BY DON MARIANO PARDO FIGUEROA.

(Read before the London Philatelic Society).

THE following information, which I submit to the correction of those better acquainted with the subject, is all I have been able to acquire. It is very difficult to fix the date at which each obliteration commenced, as but little is published in Spain in reference to such matters. With the exception of one (A) all these different obliterating marks are in use at the present time.

I can understand the little importance of these remarks, as I am unable to include a description of the postmarks of Cuba and of the Philippine Islands; but I hope the London Philatelic Society will value my good wishes more than the intrinsic merit of this paper, which I dedicate to them.

A catalogue of all the obliterations which have been, and are still in use in every country, with *fac-simile* drawings showing the colour of the ink, and the time each was in use, would, I believe, be worthy of the attention of the Philatelic Society; for, as Dr. John Edward Gray says, “the study of the means employed for this simple purpose

affords an interesting object of contemplation."



(A.)—Years 1850-1. —It was only during these two years that the obliterating mark A was employed. Although black ink was generally used, these stamps are occasionally found obliterated with red ink,

as on some six cuartos. This notwithstanding that by order of the General Post-office, under date the 4th September, 1852, only black ink was to be used.

(B.)—Year 1852. —This obliterating mark is first found on letters dated 1852, but is used up to the present day in several offices; and notably in that of Madrid, in which office also the one marked C is still in use.



(C.)—Years 1856-7-8.—This postmark was employed during these three years, but made its appearance again in Madrid in 1871.



(D.)—15th October, 1858.—This postmark, which came first in use at that time, is still used in several post-offices, notably in those of Toledo, Santa Cruz, de Tenerife, Tarancon, &c. The number changes according to the different towns; Madrid, 1; Cadiz, 3; Seville, 7; Alicante, 9; &c., &c. The annexed engraving is not thoroughly accurate. Of the four figures 3 in the margin, only those at the top and bottom should be upright. The position of the four may best be indicated by the annexed type-set illustration.

(E.)—By order of the General Post-office, 14th September, 1857, letters received at the branch offices, and which did not go to the central office, but passed through to another

branch office, were to be obliterated by a common pen-and-ink cross.

(F.)—Year 1859.—Ordered by the General Post-office, 25th November, "The post-office which has not a special seal to obliterate post stamps, will do so by affixing the date." This

was in reality done before the publication of the above order, as witness the stamp in the margin, which reads S. LUCAR LA M., 25 MAR., '59, SEVILLA—"San Lucar la mayor, 25 Marzo, 1859, Sevilla."

(G.)—1862. This mark is generally used at the present time in almost all the principal post-offices in Spain. The number changes according to the town, as in the case of D.



(H.)—Year 1870. This obliteration I have only seen on letters from Santiago, province of Corunna; and I cannot learn the meaning of the letters A. S.*

[Since the above paper was read in London, Senor Pardo de Figueroa has published in the *Averiguador* for 1872 (Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, and 35) a much longer and fuller article on Spanish obliterations, which he purposes reprinting as a separate pamphlet. The above brief sketch should therefore be regarded as merely a preliminary attempt.]

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Le Timbre Poste.—The current number contains a timely word of warning from the editor, respecting certain false stamps which have just made their appearance, and which possess certain particularities of a nature to render probable their acceptance by unsuspecting collectors. In the first place there is a series of provisional Tuscans printed on paper bearing the genuine official watermark.

*[A correspondent suggests that they stand for "Administration of Santiago."—Ed.]

How the forgers could have obtained possession of a supply of the true watermarked paper is a puzzle, but that they have done so is proved by the issue of counterfeits of all the values, including the very rare 3 lire. The latter is printed in *too bright* an orange, and all the imitations may be detected on comparison with a genuine stamp of any value, from 1 to 80 centesimi, by the too great distinctness of the details of the engraving. The forgeries exist both used and unused. The used stamps are obliterated with six parallel black bars, and some of these misleading forgeries are mounted on letter-paper, folded to imitate the outside of a letter, and stamped with a date-stamp. "From Madrid," our contemporary goes on to say, "we have received other and more dangerous imitations, viz. :—

1851,	2 and 6 reales.
1852 (bear),	3 cuartos.
1853,	2 and 6 reales.
1854,	2 cuartos and 6 reales.

and other values, perhaps, exist. These stamps, according to Dr. Magnus, have been obtained by direct lithographic transfers from the originals. The imitations of the 1851 stamps are the least successful. A slight defect in the drawing of the nose gives quite a different aspect to the queen's face. Their colour condemns them all, excepting the 2 cuartos., which has been copied to perfection. The blue stamps are of a dirty blue, generally very dark, whilst the orange stamps are of too pale and dull a shade; as to the 3 cuartos, to give it an old look it is printed on paper of a slightly greenish tint. All of them show the postmark in use at the time the stamps were current. Dr. Magnus thinks these forgeries were fabricated (whilst the originals were in circulation) with a view to cheat the government, and not collectors; but M. Moens' information from Madrid is, that these old stamps have *just been imitated*. In any case, as he says, they were intended to deceive some one, and we cannot too promptly echo his warning."

The description of newly-issued forgeries is followed by a reply to the letter from Mr. Panopoulo, recently published in these pages. The article is replete with inuendos, but is open to the same objection as the preceding

one on the same subject, namely, that no positive proof is given that the Morton stamps are a private speculation of Mr. Panopoulo's. To set the matter at rest, corroborative evidence of their *bond-fide* employment is desirable, and such evidence it ought not to be difficult for Mr. Panopoulo to obtain.

Dr. Magnus's paper on stamped envelopes succeeds the Morton stamp controversy, and the present instalment treats of the envelope essays for France, prepared by the renowned engraver, M. Barre. These essays were submitted to the government, and, as existing specimens testify, were of great beauty. They were ultimately rejected in consequence of the objections made by certain adversaries of the system of embossing.

The March number closes with a notice from the editor and publisher, *in re* the Russian local stamps, which some jealous competitor insinuates are spurious. We can fully confirm M. Moens' assertion that these stamps are official and *bond-fide* emissions.

La Gazette des Timbres.—The February and March numbers contain instalments of an article on, and analytical list of, the post card issues of all countries, whence we extract the following interesting sketch of the rapid adoption of post cards by nearly all the European states.

It was in Austria, on the 1st October, 1839, that the first card appeared, and on the following 1st November Hungary enjoyed the same advantage. Germany adopted them on the 1st July, 1870. The kingdoms of Bavaria and Wurtemberg and the Grand Duchy of Baden followed the example of the North German Confederation, and during the war of 1870-71 the field posts of the different countries supplied to the soldiers and to their families special cards, of which the advantages were recognized by everyone. Luxembourg issued hers the 1st September, 1871; and Great Britain on the 1st October, at the same time that she reduced the rate for letters for the interior to one penny [?]. Switzerland at the same period adopted the post card, and was followed by Belgium and Holland, on the 1st January, 1871; Denmark on the 1st of April; Canada in the course of the year; Chili on the 23rd December, 1871; Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway early in 1872; and Ceylon in the course of the same year. But at the beginning of that year a further improvement was introduced, that of reply-paid cards, issued in the first instance by Germany, and adopted later on by Holland (June, 1872), Belgium, Sweden, and Luxembourg (1st January, 1873.)

The instalments of the "Minor Gazette" are occupied with the details of Dr. Magnus's receipt for the preparation of a blank album,

which he recommends alike for beginners and advanced collectors. The author admits that ready-prepared albums possess this advantage, that the ruled squares teach the novice the stamps he should procure, and if space were given in such albums for only one set of each series, they might render greater service. Ruled and designed albums can only suit restricted collections, and to attempt to compose them for more extensive collectors, is, in the opinion of Dr. Magnus (and our own), to prepare the way for many inconveniences to the amateur who cannot decide on the value of the innumerable varieties to which his attention is called.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide.—This paper has reappeared under new management, and is likely to acquire a higher position than that enjoyed by the first issue. The number before us contains an interesting "Philatelic Review," by Mr. C. H. Coster, in which he discusses the lately-mooted question, "What is a Postage Stamp?" and argues in favour of the acceptance of too-late, official, and registered stamps (excepting only such registered stamps as are used merely as seals), and of the rejection of returned-letter and unpaid-letter stamps, which last appear to him to have no postal significance.

The leading article contains a good-humoured apology for the lack of method, or, in other words, the superficiality of the American style of collecting, and also for the grammatical slips which are so frequent in the composition of American philatelic writers. "We Americans," says the editor, "are a very live people; we do everything on the high-pressure principle. Stamp collecting did not and does not tame us. We handle that as we do everything else, with a rush. It must be confessed," he continues, "that Americans are more ardent than constant. We are spasmodic. One day we are wide awake on philately, the next day we are about something else. But with all our changeableness, most of us keep our collections, and are again and again drawn back to the 'old love.' And so philately holds its own. There are no signs of decadence. It is on the increase." Then as to the style of writing:—"If an American philatelist has an idea or a news item which,

communicated to his fellow collectors, would be of value, he jots it down in an off-hand ready manner, and oftentimes leaves his grammar open to criticism. We want to apologise for such cases. People more nice than wise will sometimes criticise such writings maliciously and needlessly. It is far better that a good idea be published, even if couched in language not strictly rhetorical [?] than that idea be lost. It is characteristic of us to be hasty and get over much ground in little time. Hence we are not always as thorough as might be; but we enjoy as greatly, and in the long run make as much out of, what we do as any people." We must say we like the hearty spirit in which these suggestions are put, and are willing to admit their possession of a certain plausibility; still we are not satisfied that American stamp publications should be characterised by a disregard of grammatical rules; nor can we admit that the original ideas they contain are of sufficient value to excuse faults which, with a little attention, might easily be avoided. "Pretty fair, *considering* it's written by an American" would be rather a humiliating critique. Let us hasten to add that it would not be applicable to the magazine under review, which is honourably distinguished from certain of its *confrères* both by the style and the matter.

Following the leading article comes the pertinent query—"Did anybody ever see an unequivocally genuine postmarked specimen of either of the 'local stamps' of the 'Westervelt post,' which are claimed to be genuine locals?" A contributor to these pages last year declared that this post was a *bonâ-fide* one, founding his belief on a statement made to him by the proprietor, and on an inspection of used specimens. We still have our own doubts, however, on the subject, and should require very positive proof to convince us of the genuineness of the Westervelt stamps.

The article on new issues is well illustrated, and opens with a description and engraving of a lately-discovered Philadelphian local—the *Stait's Despatch Post*. The design consists of a double-lined circle, with STAIT'S DESPATCH running round the inner edge, and PAID in a straight line at the bottom. The address, S. THIRD STREET, in two lines, occu-

pies the centre. The sole known specimen is a handstruck impression, colour brick-red, and is struck on a circular letter. It is believed to have been in use for two months only, its suppression having been operated by the post-office authorities at the same time that Blood's offices were closed. Further particulars are promised respecting this stamp, which appears to be a *bonâ-fide* one. Communication is also promised of "some interesting facts" respecting the 1 c. Confederate, and the last noteworthy item in the number before us is the statement that the well-known New York dealer, Mr. W. P. Brown (who by the way has just commenced reissuing his *Curiosity Cabinet*), is about to proceed to Japan, there to join his father, the Rev. Nathan Brown, D.D., who is engaged in translating the Bible into Japanese. We wish Mr. Brown all possible success; and as the inhabitants of Japan are such apt imitators of European fashion, we trust he will succeed in rendering philately popular amongst them.

The Curiosity Hunter.—This journal, which is published at Rockford, Illinois, has attained its sixth number. We have refrained from noticing it earlier as, although a well-written publication, it contained but an infinitesimal proportion of stamp news. In the number before us there is, however, a marked increase in the quantity, coupled with a promise of greater attention to the philatelic department. *Inter alia*, we have a letter from an American collector of note, Mr. W. K. Freeman, respecting the first issue of Natal, in which he states that he has received a number of original unused specimens of that issue, the remainder of the stock of an inland post-office in the colony, "through the kindness of the manager of the 'Missionary House,' Pemberton Square, Boston." Then follows a notice of sundry new emissions, and scraps of postal information, one of which is worth extracting. It reads thus:—

Unpaid letters, as everybody knows, are not delivered by the post-office authorities, but advertised. Now it occurred to Mr. John G. Chapman, a New Haven grain dealer, that some of these letters would be of value to the parties to whom they are addressed, and that a chance was afforded to the said Chapman, to advertise his business; so he went to the post-office just before the letter lists were to be sent to the papers, and affixed to each letter its proper stamp, together with another neat little label

bearing his name and business address, with the added suggestion that he had paid the postage, and would be happy to receive any return in the way of business patronage, in case the letter should be of value to the recipient. This practice he has continued ever since last April, and he has profited largely by it. In nine cases out of ten his stamps have been returned to him, and have frequently been accompanied by more substantial favours.

The Philatelist.—Last, but decidedly not least, and last only by accident, our old friend comes before us looking as sound and healthy as ever, with a three-page list of novelties, a continuation of the editor's catalogue of telegraph stamps, and the 24th Spud Paper. In the latter two very fair forgeries are described,—the new Mexican, and the first Deccan. The Mexican forgery may be detected from its showing only one outer line, which is border, frame, and all; whilst in the genuine there is a second or finishing one, although it is put so close to the design that it runs into the edges of the labels and corners; these are consequently thickened on the outer parts, whereas the forgery shows a line of uniform thickness everywhere. In the Deccan forgery the network at the base is formed of two lines of meshes (the upper one incomplete, certainly, but still there); but the genuine only possesses a single row, very clear and beautifully done. Mr. Pemberton gives a further test, but we cannot quite make out where the three rows of meshes running "vertically" are situate; to us all the lines of meshes appear to run horizontally.

STAMP-COLLECTING IN GABLONZ.

BY MR. MAX JOSEPH.

I HAVE pleasure in acquainting the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* with a fact, of which, probably, none are yet aware. Stamp-collecting has found its way into the remote valleys of the Giant's mountains.

A few days ago, about noon, I was strolling through the streets of Gablonz, when passing the school-house, I beheld a large gathering of boys—a by no means usual sight, seeing that it still wanted an hour to the beginning of the lessons. Imagine my surprise, when, on approaching them, I perceived that they were exchanging postage stamps, just in the same way as I witnessed ten years ago, in

some alley of Cornhill, of which I do not recollect the name. There was, however, *one* difference; I missed the policemen who used to disturb the boys with their continual "Move on." Here, in fact, on the contrary, our urban police force appears to protect stamp-collecting; for only the other day one of the two "policemen of the town" entered my office, and desired me to give him some foreign stamps for his own boy. Is it not evident that the poor mountaineers have a better notion of the usefulness of stamp-collecting, than had the city police ten years ago? I need not assure you that the man did not leave me unsatisfied, but I acted unwisely in acceding to his desire, for since that time my office has been beleaguered by boys of all ages, who eagerly inquire for stamps, and will take no denial.

I may be permitted to suppose, without disrespect to my readers, that most of them are ignorant of what kind of place Gablonz is, and where situated. Allow me to tell them that it is a little, but very industrious town (of about 6000 inhabitants) on the Neisse, in that part of the Giant's mountains called Erzgebirge, eight English miles from Reichenberg. The products of the place consisting chiefly in Bohemian glass goods of all kinds, and fancy articles—which, by the way, will be represented on a large scale in the Vienna exhibition—are celebrated all over the globe. There is hardly a spot on the inhabited earth, to which they are not exported; they are carried even into countries in central Africa, where probably no European traveller has ever set his foot. You would be astonished to hear of the enormous quantities of glass beads, finger-rings, &c., shipped to Alexandria, Senegal, Angola, &c., to be taken into the interior by caravans, and of the mock jewelry forwarded to East India and South America. Of course the correspondence of the many commercial firms established in Gablonz (amongst which there are several English) is very extensive; and many of the lads here easily get stamps that were counted amongst the rarest in the first period of collecting, such as Montevideo, Buenos Ayres, Mexico, Brazil, &c.

Gablonz, although a very little place (up to the year 1866 it was only a hamlet),

possesses many of the distinctive characteristics of larger towns; the last, but not the least of them (and certainly the most original), is the stamp exchange, the establishment of which certainly does not accord with the ignorant assertions of those who will have it that stamp-collecting is on the decline.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THERE is a decided lack of novelties this month, at any rate up to the moment of commencing the present article. We must, then, rest, and be thankful to chronicle such small fry as have been caught in the philatelic net.

FRANCE.—The number of varieties which may be distinguished among the post cards is something astonishing when we consider that they belong to a country which has always been remarkable for the accuracy and uniformity of its stamps. Some of these varieties are of inferior interest; such, for instance, as those which are formed from the apposition of the 10 c. stamp in the upright oblong inscribed "place for two 5 c. stamps," or from the suppression of this latter inscription. Others are more worthy of notice, as, for instance, the 10 c. and 15 c. cards, with a border of a new design, and the words *PRIX 10 (or 15) CENTIMES* added beneath the inscription, *LOI DU 20 DECEMBRE, 1872*. Of these latter the 10 c. is printed buff, whilst the 15 c. remains white. The explanation of these and other minor differences no doubt lies in the fact that the post-office, being unable to print off a sufficient number of cards on its own premises, has contracted with one or more private firms for the printing of a certain quantity, and that these firms, not being bound to conform strictly to the official pattern, have placed such bordering as they may happen to have in stock round the inscription. The supersession of the oblong, intended for two stamps, by a rectangle, containing space for one only, is no doubt the consequence of the issue of the 10 c. stamp. No harm can arise from the multiplication of types, inasmuch as the printed inscriptions have no value in themselves. New cards, with impressed stamps, are said to be in course of preparation, and the proof of a

proposed design is described by our Brussels contemporary.

There is an unofficial variety of the 10 c. post card in existence which is not without interest. The back of the card is bordered with advertisements, printed in red, and the space which they enclose, intended to receive the sender's communication, is covered with a ground of red lines. These cards are sold at a *sou* each, or only half the official price; and it appears the Parisian public has not been slow to appreciate the advantage offered by this reduction of fifty per cent. The tobacco shop on the Place de l'Opéra, which sold from ten to fifteen ordinary cards at 10 centimes each per day, now sells from 1500 to 1800. The post-office of the Madeleine, which used to receive 150 to 200 cards per day, has received from seven to eight hundred since the *sou* cards have been put on sale. Of course it will be understood that the gentleman (a Mr. Grénié) who buys the cards at 10 centimes, and sells them again to the public at 5 c., does not do so from any disinterested desire to prove the good results which would follow an official reduction in price; his loss on the cards is more than covered by his gain on the advertisements. Some officious meddler endeavoured to stop the sale, but has had to desist from the attempt, the right of printing at the back of the cards having been admitted by the *Journal Officiel*. The idea of using post cards as an advertising medium is not in principle a new one. When the Mulready envelopes came out, thirty odd years ago, they were employed by speculators in the same way, and the letter-writing public gained the benefit.

SPAIN.—*The Philatelist*, following in the wake of the Paris magazine, gives publicity to the report that a postage stamp has been issued by the Carlists, of which, according to a Bayonne correspondent, the design is as follows: Large rectangle; imperforate; watermarked with a single-lined *fleur-de-lis*. Full-faced portrait of Don Carlos in central pearly circle, resting on a knot of ribbons, on which is the word PAZ (peace); oak and olive branches on either side. Diagonal rays in the upper spandrels. On a white frame, enclosing the portrait, &c., are CORREOS at

the sides; FRANCO below; ESPANO UNIDA above, separated by the arms of Spain; all in bright violet. The impression is light mauve; portrait black. The letter c is at the end of the ribbons. This stamp, says our contemporary in conclusion, is used for franking letters for the troops, and for all communications from head-quarters. We cannot say the description is much in favour of the authenticity of the pretended stamp. As far as we are aware, the Carlists have as yet made no pretence of establishing regular postal communications, even in the districts in which they are most at home. We possess, it is true, two stamps emanating from the Carlist army (for which we have to express our obligations to Don Pardo de Figueroa), but they are hand-struck impressions, in blue ink, something like the *Congreso* and *Senado* stamps, and bear the arms of Don Carlos, and inscriptions indicating that they emanate from the "military commandment." Even these are simply official marks, and not postage stamps. If the design described by *The Philatelist* were intended to frank correspondence for or from the Carlist insurgents it might be supposed that some inscription indicative of the fact would appear on the stamp. So far, however, from there being any such legend, we find merely the very ironical inscription—*peace*. There is no value stated, yet it is hardly probable the Carlists would go to the expense of establishing posts for nothing. Moreover, the impression is rather ambiguously described. In one line we are told that it is all in bright violet, and in the next that the portrait is black and the rest mauve!

GUATEMALA.—The annexed engraving is that of the one peso green, of the doubtful series referred to last month. It will be re-

membered that on the first appearance of this and its companion stamps, in 1869, they were condemned as spurious. Specimens are now coming over on letters; but it is supposed that their postal employment is accidental or temporary, and that they are in reality revenue stamps. The one peso yellow, recently men-

tioned, has been ascertained by M. Moens to bear the same arms (black scroll, &c.), as the four reals *mauve*.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Dmitrieff* (Koursk).—The design of this stamp, though it does not resemble that of the state postage stamps, has nothing to indicate that it belongs to a local post, whilst the presence of the imperial arms might lead to the supposition that the stamp had been issued by the imperial government; and, according to the decree which regulates the emission of locals, there must be nothing on their face to authorise such a supposition. It would be interesting to know *why* the *Dmitrieff* district is allowed to use the imperial arms, or why it has no armorial bearings of its own. Pending the reply which we hope to receive to this query, let us chronicle the fact that the *Dmitrieff* stamp is printed in black on white wove paper, and is of the value of 3 kopecs.

Bogorodsk.—In *Le Timbre-Poste* we find an instructive rectification of a popular error as to the personage represented on the *Bogorodsk* stamps, on horseback, trampling on a dragon. We have always supposed this to be St. George, and Dr. Magnus took it to be St. Michael. This ancient byzantine emblem, it now appears, is intended to represent the czar as the propagator of Christianity, and it was only by some mistake that in 1727 it acquired the name of Saint George. M. Moens' authority is a Mr. J. Vandeimaelen, from whose "Historical Essay on Arms" he quotes a passage in support of the foregoing statement.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—The three cents carmine, which has dragged on its solitary existence for thirteen years, has at length been joined by a second value, a 4 c. ultramarine on white, perforated. The sole difference between the two stamps consists in the figure of value. The watermark of the 3 c. is repeated on the new comer. It is rather a disappointment to find that choice has not been made of a new type, similar to that adopted by the mother country; but perhaps it is desired to perpetuate the currency of the original Danish design. The current 3 c. carmine will, it is said, be issued perforated as soon as the stock in hand is exhausted.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Pursuant to a notice of

the Berlin General Post-office, dated 3rd March, 1873, private persons can now send their own envelopes to the office, to be stamped with any of the values of the existing adhesive series, but not less than a thousand of each value must be ordered, and the government charge for stamping that number is $7\frac{1}{2}$ groschen. The two $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen envelopes chronicled by us some time since, must have been struck in anticipation of the forthcoming decree (prior to the issue of which, only 1 gr. envelopes were stamped to order), and it appears that all the other values are in existence. The formalities to be complied with by persons who send envelopes for stamping are the same as in this country, except that no restriction is placed on the colour of the paper. The liberty of choice of colour has, we believe, already been used and abused by German stamp speculators, who are proceeding to multiply tints and shades as fast as the post-office can fill their orders. The varieties thus obtained are totally unworthy of collection, and we trust a decided stand will be made by English dealers and philatelists against their admission. In this instance, be it remembered, only the impressed stamp is of official origin, and if it be deemed necessary to possess evidence of the facility for stamping which has just been offered by the German post-office, a single copy of each value is surely sufficient for the purpose. We, for our part, under the circumstances, should prefer copies which have passed the post. We must not omit to mention that bands for printed matter are also stamped to order with the $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. and 1 kr. stamps.

The companion to the recently-noticed $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen post card—the 2 krenzer—has made its appearance. It is identical with the former in all respects except the value. *The Philatelist* states, however, that the specimens of the 2 kr. which it has received are all paler in colour than the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and the letters consequently appear thinner than those of the groschen value, but this (it observes) may be accidental.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We have been favoured by an esteemed correspondent with a sight of a specimen sixpenny stamp of the current

type, printed a greyish-green, of exactly the same shade as the existing 96 c. Hongkong. A supply in the new colour is to be issued on this 1st of April, and it will officially supersede the preceding deep brown and pale brown impressions.

UNITED STATES.—The annexed cut represents a stamp found by our friend Mr. Tiffany among his correspondence, upon a



letter dated the 10th July, 1847, and communicated by him to *Le Timbre-Poste*. It is printed in black on the ordinary buff paper, of a tint similar to that of the old United States envelopes, is cut round,

as shown in the engraving, and fastened to the letter by means of a wafer. Besides the label, the letter also bears an ordinary date-stamp struck by hand, and inscribed ALEXANDRIA, D. C. (District of Columbia, to which the town of Alexandria then belonged), a large figure in a rectangle, and the word PAID. Mr. Tiffany sends the stamp just as he found it, and is unable to say whether it has been cut from an envelope, or clipped round through a whim of the sender. He hopes soon to be able to furnish further particulars. We confess ourselves to being rather puzzled as to the postal value of this stamp. The date above mentioned is posterior to the issue of the first series of government stamps, and it seems hardly possible that in the district of Columbia, close by the capital itself, any difficulty could have been experienced in getting a supply of the latter. Moreover, it would appear that the word *paid*, and the figure in a rectangle, formed the official evidences of prepayment. In short, the inscriptions on the label are all found repeated on the postmarks struck on the letter. In reply to these conjectures, the absence of the government adhesive, coupled with the fact that other post-offices did at that period issue stamps of their own for the convenience of the public, may be urged with considerable effect. We must, therefore, suspend judgment until the information which Mr. Tiffany hopes to obtain arrives.

Another stamp, of uncertain value, was recently chronicled by *Le Timbre-Poste*. Its design is here represented.

The only known copy is handstruck in a dull dark blue, on the cover of a letter from Huntsville (Alabama), dated "5 Sept." We are entirely of M. Moens' opinion, that this mark is not

a postage stamp, but simply an official postmark, possibly, to some extent, indicative of payment. The circle of stars is also evidently a mere ornament, without any emblematic meaning.

NEW ZEALAND. — A correspondent has kindly sent us, by the mail just arrived, a specimen of a new stamp for this colony. It is for newspaper postage, and of the value of *one halfpenny*. In design it somewhat resembles the English halfpenny adhesive, but it is rectangular in shape, and has an inscribed marginal label above and scroll beneath the portrait, which is in a plain oval, with value ($\frac{1}{2}$ d.) on each side. It bears the inscription NEW ZEALAND NEWSPAPER POSTAGE, is printed in pink on white paper, and perforated. Next month we will give an engraving of this novelty.

We have been favoured with a sight of the queer stamp which has been dubbed with the title of the "abnormal New Zealand." It is, in fact, the result of a very unusual error or accident in printing. The sheet from which it was cut must have been shifted whilst under the press, and hence a kind of double impression. With the first stroke of the press, which must have been a faint one, the upper margin and the inscription NEW ZEALAND were printed, together with some faint outlines of the portions beneath; the paper must have then been drawn back and moved slightly to the left, and the lower half of the design printed with the second stroke. The consequence is a stamp almost square, about three quarters of the length of an ordinary impression, with a blurred oval centre, in which the bust, as far up as the necklace, can be clearly made out, and with top and bottom inscriptions perfectly legible. The shifting of the paper

to the left is shown by the fact that the lower portion of the design is struck to the left of the upper. The colour, the star watermark, and the gum are all those of an ordinary stamp, but the presence of a New South Wales postmark—N. S. W.—in the middle of three concentric ovals, is difficult to account for. The opinion of Sir Daniel Cooper is that probably the newspaper from which this stamp was detached was posted too late to receive the New Zealand postmark (say, on board the mail steamer), and was consequently not obliterated until its arrival at Sydney. Its possessor argues, and, as it seems to us, with much reason, that at least a row, if not the whole sheetful of stamps must have been composed of these "abnormals."

SWITZERLAND.—A newspaper wrapper stamp of the design here figured has been in use since the 1st of February of this year. It is struck in relief to the left, and a broad line in rose runs along the upper and lower edges of the wrapper. The impression is in rose, and the value 2 centimes. There is also a 5 c. of the same type and colour, and a 5 c. post card is said to exist; but this we doubt. The entire absence of inscription renders this design an almost unique one.

TURKEY.—The emission of a new series of stamps at Constantinople is, it appears, being discussed, the stock of the existing type being almost exhausted, and the supply of envelopes having already disappeared completely.

T. B. Morton & Co.—We are informed by Mr. Panopoulo that Messrs. Morton, having withdrawn their steamers from the line between the Black Sea, the Danube, and Constantinople, their postal service has consequently ceased to exist, and their stamps are obsolete.

AUSTRIA.—The use of post cards has been extended to the Levant, the Austrian branch offices there and in other parts of Turkey being now provided with cards bearing an impression of the current adhesive type, in rose, value 4 soldi, by which communications can be sent from one office to another

in Turkey, and also from any office in Turkey to any part of Germany. The card is like the ordinary Austrian, and bears the Italian inscription. The Austrian post-office, we may here appropriately add, is said to be in negotiation with the Turkish government for the establishment of branch posts at Sentari, and in other towns in Albania and Bosnia.

LUXEMBOURG.—New unstamped yellow, red, and solferino coloured post cards, with German inscription, printed in black, have made their appearance; and similar cards, with French inscriptions are to be issued, the whole to be finally followed by cards bearing impressed 5 c. stamps. The unstamped cards just out are of both kinds, single and reply-paid. By an official notice, it appears that rural letter carriers, when delivering a reply-paid card, may wait for a period not exceeding five minutes for the reply.

We have just received the 20 c. printed in a dark greyish brown, a shade which contrasts strongly with the former warm reddish brown of this stamp.

CHILE.—Our Valparaiso correspondent informs us that shortly before the 15th January two more values of the new envelope series came into use, viz., the 10 centavos on yellow tinted, and the 15 c. on white paper; both full sized envelopes; and on the same day the 5 c. note size was issued on yellow tinted paper. In a postscript to his letter (which is dated the 31st January), our correspondent states that he has just seen the 5 c. on white and on yellow, large size; and, he adds, the supply of the 5 c. on blue and on white is for the present exhausted. The entire supply of the 2 c. and 20 c. (of which fewest were ordered), was lost in the *Tacora*.

NORWAY. A 2 skilling envelope has been issued; impressed stamp (same as the adhesive) to right, and the same flap ornament (lion within a crowned shield) as on the 3 sk. envelope.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Our Brussels contemporary states that on this 1st April post cards and a new 3 c. adhesive are to make their appearance.

ICELAND.—On the authority of our Brighton contemporary, we chronicle, by anticipation, the appearance of a 3 skilling stamp on this 1st of April.

BAVARIA.—The same journal states that an unstamped reply-paid card for this country has been issued, with black inscriptions on green.

A NOVEL RACE.

FROM "ALL THE YEAR ROUND."

It might, perhaps, have been thought that the ingenuity of man had been so thoroughly ransacked that a new description of race was almost an impossibility; but it has been reserved for the enterprising gentleman who rejoices in spiky moustaches and the title of the People's Caterer, to demonstrate the contrary.

A postman's race was the other day announced to take place at North Woolwich Gardens, over a three-hundred-yards course, planted with trees at a distance of about ten yards from each other; to each tree was to be affixed a number, a knocker, and a letter-box, and the men being started in heats of four (each man provided with the same number of letters), the duty of each competitor was to deliver the regulation postman's knock at each tree, drop a letter in the box, and, getting over the ground as rapidly as possible, either by running or walking, to return to the starting-post. To prevent this curious race from resolving itself into a mere trial of speed—instead of speed and accuracy combined—the whole sixty letters representing the number of leafy houses to be called at in going and returning, were not to be served out to each man, but a dozen letters were to be withdrawn at random from each batch, while a single false delivery among the forty-eight remaining numbers was to distance the unfortunate blunderer. Prizes were to be given to the winner of the grand heat, the winners of the trial heats, and also to the second and third in each heat.

The novelty of the event, and the peculiarly business-like character of the arrangement, attracted my attention, and it was with some surprise that I discovered a paragraph going the round of the papers, not only stating that the chiefs of the postal department declined to smile official sanction on the undertaking, but were throwing

as much cold water upon it as possible. That the authorities should decline to take any trouble about the matter was conceivable enough, but it appeared to your contributor that they certainly travelled out of the record in administering a public snubbing to the projector. A postman when he gets a holiday—no very frequent occurrence—has clearly as good a right to attend a race, or even to take part therein, as any other citizen.

Entertaining some grave doubts as to the probable effect of the official wet blanket thrown over the project, I betake myself on a fine summer afternoon to Fenchurch Street Station, and proceed to discover North Woolwich Gardens. Although some thousands of people are there present, there is plenty of room for everybody. The blue uniforms of the postmen pervade the entire gardens, and the wives and families, the friends and adherents of those honest fellows, muster strongly. The swings are doing a roaring trade, and the proprietor of a huge iron roundabout, of the bicycle order of architecture, can hardly accommodate the numerous customers, who seem hugely to appreciate the fun of working very hard to spin—like horizontal squirrels—round in a circle.

The simple, jovial holiday-makers, in short, are getting on very well, and the laughter of merry children rings sweetly in the summer air, especially at the blissful moment when a huge tray arrives laden with fragrant tea, mighty heaps of shrimps in their ruddy brown armour, whole forests of green water-cresses, and bread-and-butter galore.

But the postmen entered for the race are beginning to collect at the end of the course—the dark blue uniforms gradually sifting themselves out of the crowd of merry-makers—and come to the front with the air of men who have a great undertaking before them. Some few of the competitors have gone to the length of laying aside their uniform altogether, and attired in jerseys, with over-coats tied round their necks by the sleeves in the approved athletic style, contrive, by their would-be pedestrian get-up, to slightly mar the symmetry of some of the races.

The People's Caterer and his merry men are busily employed clearing the course, and the general public relinquish with evident reluctance, the new and delightful amusement of trying the different knockers, a sport which has kept many youths and maidens in high good humour during the afternoon, and heavily-taxed the powers of much-enduring paterfamilias in raising his olive branches to the level of the coveted noise-producer. The course is cleared at last; the trees, all duly accoutred with knocker, box, and number, are counted, and preparations are made for the start.

At last all is ready, and the four men drawn in the first heat stand ready, each man with his packet of cards in his hand. One of these, the stalwart fellow in a grey jersey, is a good specimen of that well-known character in all racing matters—the litigious competitor. He has been in great force all the afternoon, asking endless questions, and worrying the great caterer by propounding to him knotty points as to disqualification, the exact meaning of each and every one of the conditions, the choice of umpires, and such-like tough and uncomfortable subjects. I have a great hope that he will be beaten; and my sympathies are undoubtedly with the lithe young fellow in plain clothes, who says nothing, but takes up his letters and his position in silence.

The word is given, away they go, and at a clipping pace. Rat-tat, rat-tat, rat-tat, the air seems full of the postman's knock, so rapidly do the rat-tats succeed each other. The stout competitor, who went off with a tremendous rush, is dropping into the rear already, and his interesting family, craning over the ropes to "see papa win," is doomed to disappointment. I hope the discomfiture of papa on this occasion will not shake the faith of the family in its head. By Jove, the litigious man is leading; I can see his detestable grey jersey well in front. They have turned the corner, and are now racing back, grey-jacket has lost the pride of place. The quiet man leads; rat-tat, rat-tat, rat-tat; grey-jacket makes a final effort, but the quiet competitor wins in a canter.

The litigious man is placed second; and, true to the last, no sooner recovers his

breath than he lodges an objection against the winner for going on the wrong side of a tree. The objector takes but little by his motion though, for number one has gone over the whole course, and delivered all his letters correctly, so the objection is quietly overruled. But the objector, though disposed of officially, hovers about for hours in a discontented manner, and putting on the air of one who has been deeply wronged, pounces like a sort of mail-carrying ancient mariner upon any unfortunate wight who may be weak enough to listen to the yarn of the litigious one. The heats now follow each other in rapid succession, and the interest is well kept up by the crowd of families and sympathisers. Meanwhile twilight falls softly over the broad river; the lights gleam brightly from the Woolwich shore; the illumination of the gardens commences; music strikes up on the platform, and dancing begins; but my dancing days, like the postmen's races, are things of the past, and, stepping into a railway carriage, I am soon once more in London's "seething cauldron."

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

A MEETING was held at Dr. Viner's, on Saturday, the 15th ultimo, at which the president, the vice-president, and the Baron Arthur de Rothschild, exhibited portions of their magnificent collections before a full attendance of admiring amateurs. One large folio volume of the latter member's contained, in most respects, an unrivalled assortment of the essays, proofs, and varieties of the stamps and envelopes of Great Britain; which was matched with a similar collection of Mr. Philbrick's. Two other volumes of the Baron's feasted the eyes with the emissions of some of the South American States; among which the red $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo Peru, uncanceled impressions of the yellow ditto, pages of varieties of the Buenos Ayres ships, &c., were conspicuous; and a whole sheet of the 5 centavos of Montevideo, showing the numerous errors *in situ*. Among other curiosities, we remarked a pair of unsevered 2 reales Ecuador stamps, presenting a peculiarity which has escaped notice in our pages, of having the

two types,—viz., central circle, and broad oval,—side by side. The African collections of the president and vice-president were much admired. In the latter we noticed a variety of the penny Transvaal, both in red and black, which has never yet been chronicled in this or any other magazine. The stamps, which appeared last year for the first time, have the numerals in the upper angles set in distinct frames. The pages of varieties of the rarest early Mauritius impressions, many of them uncanceled, exhibited by the last-named gentlemen, were, as the Scotch say, "a sight for sair een." Mr. de Ysasi produced an amusing illustration of the carelessness of Spanish officials, in the shape of an envelope posted at Malaga, passing through Madrid, and reaching London in due time; but the Madrid postmark bore a date two days *later* than the time of arrival at its destination—say, posted in Malaga, Feb. 18th, reaching Madrid on the 22nd, and arriving in London on the 20th!

The next meeting is fixed for Saturday, the 12th instant; the stamps of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, being chosen for exhibition and comparison.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

STAMPED NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.—After the 31st ultimo, stamped newspaper wrappers will not be sold to the public in smaller quantities than twelve, or multiples of twelve. Concurrently with this change, the two smaller-sized wrappers will be discontinued, the issue being limited to the larger-sized wrapper of the dimensions 12 inches by 5 inches. The price for twelve wrappers will be 6½d.

POSTAGE ENVELOPES OF A SQUARE SHAPE.—Postage envelopes of a square shape, the dimensions of which are 4½ inches by 3 11-16 inches, will shortly be issued. They will be sold to the public at the following prices:—One for 1½d.; two for 2½d.; three for 3½d.; four for 4½d.; 6 for 6½d.; eight for 9d.; twelve for 1s. 1½d.; twenty-four for 2s. 3d.; and so on. The postage envelopes of the smallest size, viz., 4 inches by 2½ inches, will be discontinued.

POST OFFICE TEA.—There has been formed a post-office tea association, for the supply of pure and genuine tea. The packets which this association sends out are adorned with a rough imitation of the penny postage stamp, reminding one somewhat of the Mauritius wood blocks. Over the Queen's profile are the words **POST OFFICE**, in an arch; in the lower margin **TEA**; and in the four angles are the letters **P. O.—T. A.** The idea of calling the tea "post-office" tea is rather a novel one, and if extended might yield valuable additions to advertising no-

menclature. Thus we might have the sorter's sugar, the letter-carrier's coffee, the post-office clerk's sauce, &c. The last-named article might be appropriately adorned with a vignette, showing the manufacturers in the act of giving it to the public.

SALE OF M. BERGER-LEVRAULT'S COLLECTION.—We understand that the fine collection of M. Berger-Levrault, of Strasbourg, has recently passed into the hands of the Baron Arthur de Rothschild and Mr. Philbrick, who have made the acquisition jointly. This collection, commenced when the pursuit was in its earliest stages, is remarkable in many respects: more particularly for an almost unrivalled series of the colonies of Great Britain. It is very strong, also, in uncut envelopes, and in the southern states of Europe. We hear M. Berger-Levrault has retained the portion which includes the French stamps, in which he possesses some almost unique essays and specimens: but the two gentlemen who thus will divide the residue of the collection will be able, by adding its treasures to their own, to make the latter beyond all question at the head of the French and English collections respectively.

CAUTION.—We have been favoured by Mr. Pemberton with the sight of some forgeries of the 1854 y 55 Philipines. The 10 cuartos is tolerably well imitated, and might deceive semi-tyros. The points of difference are as follows:

GENUINE.	FORGERY.
55 upright.	55 sloping.
43½ pearls, round and pretty regular.	40 pearls, imperfect and very irregular.
Lines of shading, thick.	Lines thinner.
Crown of head left white.	Head filled with lines.
Coronet irregular.	Coronet regular.
Intense red.	Dull lake.

There are a 5 c. orange-buff, a 1 real indigo, and a 2 reales green, evidently from the selfsame type, values excepted. These being nonexistent, in fact, none but the veriest tyro need warning against the swindle.—*The Philatelist*.

"POSTAL MATTER."—We have been informed that the much-abused "franking privilege" granted to the "statesmen" of America, is to be abolished from the 1st of July next. It was well understood that many Western legislators, upon arriving at Washington, made extraordinary use of their franking privilege. Thus, one representative was convicted of sending his dirty linen back to his own State to be washed, and of having it returned to him, when clean, through the public mails. Kentucky members were suspected of "franking" kegs of Bourbon whisky from the Ohio to the Potomac; and Daniel Webster used to tell a capital story of having dined with a Pennsylvanian "statesman" who interpreted "postal matter" as including sucking pigs, upon one of which he entertained his friends at dinner in Washington. The enormous use of the franking privilege has long tended to make the arrears of the post-office department exceptionally heavy. For many years the late Horace Greeley never ceased to lift up his voice at this "expensive absurdity"; and honest men will rejoice to hear that after the 1st of next July, it will be impossible to send sucking pigs or dirty linen without charge through the American mails.

A CLERK'S PERQUISITES.—Mr. Parsons, in his testimony before the investigating committee of the New York Legislature, having declared that it had long been customary to see clerks of the Senate and Assembly, public attention has been turned to the men who have occupied these offices in previous years, and the curious fact is disclosed about J. B. Cushman, of Utica, clerk of the Assem-

bly from 1862 to 1866, that he has since had a great store of postage stamps,—the old red kind that were in use before they were superseded by the blue, and these again by the green ones now in use. So large a supply of stamps has Mr. Cushman had on hand that he has not only paid postage with them, but has used them to pay such items as a suit of clothes, and no longer ago than last summer he paid for cotton cloth, bought at a Utica mill, with stamps. When it is considered that the Assembly, for the five years Mr. Cushman was connected with it, expended over \$56,000 for postage, according to the official figures, it is no wonder that there were some stamps left over; but one would suppose that they belonged to the State, instead of being one of the perquisites of the clerk. Mr. Cushman is now one of the assistant clerks of the Senate, at Washington, and as the Senate does not use stamps, we are glad to know that he is beyond the present reach of temptation.—*Springfield (Mass., U.S.) Republican.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

A STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In last month's number I see your correspondent, "B. C. del C.," advocates a sort of Stamp Exchange Society, which I think would certainly prove very beneficial to stamp collectors, in helping them to get rid of their duplicates, instead of always having to buy new ones. Why could not something of this kind be started in London, or any other convenient place on this side of the water—in fact, a sort of stamp club where collectors could meet? Of course there would be the room, &c., &c., to pay for; but I think that difficulty might be got over by a small entrance fee and an annual subscription. I think if something of this kind could be done it would meet with support.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Slough.

P. W. B.

FISCAL STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I quite endorse the statements of "Quelqu'un" as to collecting fiscal stamps. Such a collection could not fail to be most unsatisfactory. In the first place it is almost impossible to get specimens of the impressed stamps used on English legal documents, except at a most enormous cost, and for this reason: Stamps upon deeds, probates, &c., are not, like postage stamps, of no legal value after they have been used. They must remain affixed to the documents, in order to show that the proper duty has been paid thereon, inasmuch as no document which is not duly stamped can be produced in evidence in a court of law, except on payment of a heavy penalty; and since, in certain cases, it is necessary to show a title of sixty years, of course the stamps on all the documents within that period must be preserved intact.

Again: if once fiscal stamps be admitted, there is no reason why chancery, common law, probate and bankruptcy fee stamps should not be collected. They certainly offer as much interest as the others, and many (the probate fee stamps especially) are most beautiful specimens of engraving. Many of the values are, however, very high, and used specimens would be almost unattainable.

Yours truly,

Timperley, Cheshire.

G. H. H.

THE PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—May I be permitted through your columns to offer a suggestion to Mr. Overy Taylor. There is no part of your magazine more interesting to me than the excellent "Papers for Beginners." But although they first began to appear about two years ago, they have not as yet proceeded further than Germany. This being the case, what a time we must wait before they get as far as Australia! We shall all be grey-headed, and by no means "Beginners" by the time the papers have come to an end. Under these circumstances, I hope I shall be pardoned if I suggest that Mr. Overy Taylor should publish a series of "Papers for Beginners," embracing every country, in the form of a book, that we may all profit thereby. Trusting that gentleman will give my suggestions the consideration I feel sure they merit.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

Barnard Castle.

A YOUNG COLLECTOR.

EIGHT-AND-SIXPENCE-WORTH OF RUBBISH.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—There is a sort of satisfaction in knowing that you are not the only one who has been victimised by an ingenious scamp. On reading the current number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* I find quoted in your monthly review of contemporaries a letter from "A Victim" of M. Ernest Stoltze, of Brunswick, to *The Philatelist*. I was another of his chosen ones. As in "A Victim's" case, I was from home; had I been there, I should not have received a parcel with eight-and-sixpence to pay, without any advice of it from the person sending. It was sent to me by post from my home, and on opening I found its contents identical with those described by the correspondent above referred to. At first I thought of writing to Stoltze, but then the old proverb about throwing good money after bad came into my mind, so I let the matter rest, and paid for the dearest packet I ever bought. I sincerely hope that our friend has got his deserts, and, enclosing my card,

I remain,

Yours truly,

London, W.

ANOTHER VICTIM.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. W. M., Valparaiso.—Many thanks for your obliging communication of 31st January. The following answer will reply also to your query as to Mr. Pemberton's journal.

ANOTHER VICTIM, London, W.—*The Philatelist* is no longer in existence. It was published by Messrs. J. R. Grant & Co., 18, Paradise Street, Birmingham. The projected quarterly issue, we understand, will not take place.

G. H. H., Timperley.—We do not think the issue of the stamps of Bergen, Drammens, and Drontheim is in any special manner sanctioned by the Norwegian government. The emission, as we take it, is simply permitted; and the work of the private offices is confined to the delivery of letters, &c. With Helsingfors and Tammerfors the case, we apprehend, is different. The inscription STADSPOST on these stamps would seem to signify that the postal service is undertaken by, or in the name of, the respective towns.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXVII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Germany.

THE NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

THE Confederation called into existence by the war of 1866 was essentially a provisional one, intended to pave the way for that greater combination which resulted from the Franco-German campaign. It lasted only four years, and gave birth to but one emission,

properly so called; but it is a remarkable illustration of the complex nature of postal arrangements in the present day, that that emission comprises, all told, no less than twenty-seven stamps, more or less entitled to the distinctive epithet of "postage." Besides the duplicate series of ordinary pre-paying stamps, we find a special label for the local service of a semi-independent city, a couple of envelopes, a couple of newspaper bands, a duplicate set of "service" stamps, and a pair of registration stamps. Even in a rudimentary article like the present the enumeration of all the values seems almost a superfluous occupation of space; I may, therefore, I think, confine myself to a rapid glance at the few peculiarities which the series presents. With regard first to the design: certain of the values of the franking series proper, and possibly all, show the figure of value shaded. At first sight the centre of the figure appears to be filled by a thick solid vertical line and two thin lines, but a closer inspection shows that the middle line is formed of a diagonal shading, the lines of which run from right to left. In the normal type the centre of the figure is quite white. The 1 groschen and 1 krenzer and 3 kr. are the only values in which the diagonal shading has been remarked, but it may well be that the variety is exemplified in all the values.

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All the values of the franking series proper exist both pierced (*percés*) and hole-perforated. They were first issued *percés*, and the perforating machine was called into action as, and when, fresh supplies were issued. The printing of these fresh supplies gave rise to certain more or less marked differences in shade; thus the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., 1 gr., and 2 gr. are found in shades varying from light to dark of their respective colours. These variations call for no special attention, but the change from a mere *perçage* to perforation requires to be noted.

It has been asserted that the stamps just referred to were issued watermarked. In a Belgian paper an approximate engraving of the watermark was given, but after a careful examination of many copies I can but concur in the opinion expressed by the editor of this magazine, that the pretended watermark is nothing but a *mottling* in the paper, undeserving of notice. Such an almost imperceptible change in the appearance of the back of the stamp as this mottling produces, can never have been intended to serve as a means of distinguishing genuine stamps from false ones.

The stamp issued specially for Hamburg is a peculiar one. It has no central device, and the value (half schilling) is not indicated. It remained in use, I believe, as long as the other stamps of the series, and was used for the city postage. It would be curious to know on what grounds the privilege of employing a special stamp was conceded to Hamburg, whilst it was withheld from two other free cities—Bremen and Lubeck.

The registration stamps—so called for want of a better title—are remarkable for



the comparative fineness of their engraving.

It is also worthy of note that the plan of printing these stamps on gold-beaters' skin, initiated by the Prussian administration, was not continued by the Confederation officials. It is to be regretted that these stamps should have been obliterated by pen-marks, as such marks are far less sightly than the ordinary impression from a hand-stamp, and unused copies are difficult to obtain.

The service stamps for the two sections of the Confederation are distinguished from

each other, not only by the difference in denomination, but also by a difference in the colour of the ground. Whilst the groschen set is printed in black on a light brown ground-work, the kreuzer are printed in black on pearl-grey

Of envelopes, properly so called, only two were issued, the 1 gr. and the 3 kr., both rose; but a number of "converted" envelopes of the absorbed states were issued. Perhaps, in strictness, the collection of all the *sixty-four* varieties should be advocated; but however interesting such a number of varieties may be to advanced collectors, it can hardly be expected that beginners should feel equally desirous of obtaining them all. However, the best plan will be to explain the mode of conversion, and leave the readers of these papers to judge for themselves as to the collectable value of the varieties. The envelopes used were those of Prussia, Saxony, Brunswick, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Oldenburg. Over the impressed stamps on these envelopes were stuck adhesive stamps of the Confederation. After the adhesives were attached the envelopes were brought under a die, from which an impression in pale grey, of a rectangular shape, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 1 in. was struck. This rectangular stamp, with rounded corners, was filled with minute repetitions of the inscription *NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK*. It flattened the embossed stamp, covered the adhesive label, and left a broad margin of grey all round. The only envelopes to which this grey surcharge alone would not apply were

the Oldenburg, of which the embossed oval stamps were so large, that to cover them it was necessary to print off a special supply of adhesives, with an eighth-of-an-inch of margin every way. These were used to hide the embossed stamp, and then the grey impression was struck.

The values of the envelopes thus surcharged with adhesives, are as follows:—

Surcharged with a 1 gr. adhesive.

1861. Prussia, 1, 3, s.gr.; 6 pf.; 9 kr.

1863-5. Saxony, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 5 s.gr.

1865. Brunswick, 1, 2 s.gr.

1864. Mecklenburg-Strelitz, 1, 2, 3, s.gr.

1862. Oldenburg, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, s.gr.

Surcharged with a 2 gr. adhesive.

1863. Prussia, 2 s.gr.

" Saxony, 2 s.gr.

Surcharged with a 3 kr. adhesive.

1867. Prussia, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 kr.

From this it will be seen that only twenty-three values were operated on, the sixty-four varieties being, in fact, made up of surcharges on different sized envelopes.

I must not omit to state that the currency of the Confederation series was initiated by the issue of the adhesives for public use on the 1st of January, 1868, and terminated by the issue of the first series for the German Empire, on the 15th December, 1871.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

The stamps inscribed *DEUTSCHER REICHPOST* were issued as above stated on the 15th December, 1871, though their general currency may fairly be dated from New Year's Day

of 1872. No change in the postal rates or arrangements marked the emission, even the colours are the same as those of the corresponding values in the preceding series. As originally issued, the first German series comprised the following denominations:—

Adhesives { $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1, 2, 5 groschen.
1, 2, 3, 7, 18 kreuzer.

Wrapper { $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.
1 kr.

Envelope—1 gr.

" 3 kr.

Registration Stamps—10, 30 gr

About the middle of last year the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., originally issued in orange-red, made its appearance in a dull yellowish orange.

On the 1st June, 1872, the issue of a second series of adhesives was commenced, differing from the first only in the enlargement of the eagle and the introduction of certain modifications in its design. The stamps with enlarged eagle, though the difference be only a secondary one, must be considered as forming a distinct series, the change affecting to a certain extent the central design, and being made intentionally and for an important reason, viz., to bring the representation of the eagle on the postage stamp into conformity with the shape and bearings decided on by the heralds for the imperial arms.

In this second series all the above-mentioned adhesive values are represented, plus two new denominations which appeared towards the end of the year, viz., the $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. and 9 kr., both printed light brown.

The post cards, being (until lately) unstamped, possess but comparatively little interest. The registration stamps are identical with those of the North German Confederation, excepting in so far as concerns the inscription.

With regard to the envelopes, only the 1 gr. and the 3 kr. exist of the first series, but all the values of the second are now being printed off, private persons being allowed to send envelopes to be stamped with any existing denomination,—subject, of course, to certain necessary restrictions. Varieties without number, and without value from a philatelic point of view, will thus be produced, and, reiterating the advice given last month in the article on new issues, I can only say that one single specimen of each denomination should suffice.

I have not touched on the field-post envelopes of the Confederation or the Empire, believing it to be unadvisable to notice hybrid issues with which the general public has nothing to do. For a similar reason the stamps of the various invalid associations appear to me to be undeserving of special attention.

THE CITY DELIVERY POSTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

BY C. H. COSTER.

THE CALIFORNIA PENNY POST Co.—Since writing on this post (vol. x., p. 148) I have been fortunate enough to obtain another variety of the Penny Post Company's envelope. It is printed in black on a 3 cents envelope of the 1853 issue, and does not bear the usual round handstamp of the company. I am inclined to believe that several minor varieties of type B (illustrated in my first paper) exist, but I may be able to speak more definitely on this point before long.

Our attention must next be directed to five city-delivery posts which I have traced through the directories of 1860 to 1868.

First.—

1862-3. California City Letter Express, 418, Washington St.
1864-5. do. do. 424, do.
1866. do. do. 316, do.

I have no particulars whatever in regard to this post, nor do I even know whether it issued postage stamps. However, for the sake of completeness, I include it in my list.

Second.—

1860. San Francisco Letter Express, Van Dyke and Early, 162, Montgomery Street.
1861. San Francisco Letter Express, G. E. Early, 630, Montgomery Street.
1862. San Francisco Letter Express, S. W. Corner, Montgomery and Merchant Street (proprietor's name not given).

History has also left us in the dark as to this Express. Possibly it sold out to Robinson.

Third.—

1862-3. San Francisco Letter Express (also found as "S. F. City Letter Express"), John C. Robinson, 748, Washington Street.
1864. City Letter Express (also found as "City Express"), Dennis Gahagan, 423, Washington Street.

Gahagan, who succeeded to the Express in 1864, was previously to that time a carrier for Robinson. He associated with him one C. E. B. Howe, although this last mentioned gentleman's name is not found in the directory in this connection. Gahagan subsequently died or left the concern, which was sold out to W. E. Loomis. Mr. Howe died in San Francisco only a few months ago.

Fourth.—

1864-5. City Letter Express, Geo. A. Carnes (also found misprinted as "Carnes"), 20, Government House.

1866. City Letter Express, Geo. A. Carnes, S. E. Corner of Washington and Sansome Street.

This Express also sold out to W. E. Loomis.

Fifth.—

1866, 1867, 1868, and 1869. City Letter and Package Express, Wm E. Loomis, S. E. Corner, of Washington and Sansome Street.

As will be seen by reading the above, Mr. Loomis was the successor of Gahagan and of Carnes. He continued his Express, in conjunction with a stationery business, until a couple of years ago, when he abandoned it, as he found that the extra inducements in the way of prompt delivery throughout the city, held out by the U. S. Post-office in San Francisco, interfered very largely with his success.

As already stated, I have no reason for supposing that the California City Letter Express Company issued stamps. We must therefore proceed with those issued by the firm of

VAN DYKE & EARLY.

Handstruck on envelopes.

(A). Oblong frank, in shape not unlike the common Wells, Fargo, & Co., reading SAN FRANCISCO CITY LETTER EXPRESS, in two lines. Impressed in black at top of a white envelope, bearing a perforated one cent United States adhesive, and cancelled SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 21, 1860.

(B). Same as last, but impressed in blue on an ordinary yellow envelope, across the end of which is a similarly shaped affair, enclosing a small transverse oval in centre, with "REC'D" to left and "M" to right.

(C). I can only give a very general description of this rarity, having never seen it. SAN FRANCISCO LETTER EXPRESS, surrounded by a rectangular oblong frame. Blue on buff envelope.

J. C. ROBINSON.

Adhesives.

I give below descriptions of all the franks bearing the name of *Robinson* of which I have ever heard. It is quite likely that some of them were issued by other parties of the same name, instead of by the manager of the "San Francisco Letter Express." (Those to which an asterisk is prefixed are noted either by Dr. Gray or M. Berger-Levrault).

Adhesives.

(1*). ROBINSON & CO. ONE CENT. Rectangular; coloured impression.

Brown on blue.

Black „ blue.

Red „ green.

(2*). ROBINSON & CO. SAN FRANCISCO EXPRESS, PAID. Oblong.

Black on yellow.

Printed on envelopes.

(A). ROBINSON & CO.'S EXPRESS above; PAID below. Bear in centre; hills, trees, &c. in background. The whole enclosed in a double lined oblong frame, pointed at top. Black on 3 c. buff 1864 United States envelope.

(B*). ROBINSON & CO.'S SAN FRANCISCO EXPRESS. Scroll. Blue impression.

Handstruck on envelopes.

(C). A correspondent mentions a small oval handstamp, reading ROBINSON & CO., CITY DELIVERY.

GAHAGAN & HOWE.

Adhesives.

(1). G. & H. in centre; CITY DELIVERY curved above; SAN FRANCISCO in straight line at bottom; "5" in corners. The whole enclosed in an oblong rectangular frame, formed by one heavy line, with a border of scallops inside.

Blue, on thin white paper.

(2). Larger than preceding. G. & H.—PAID in centre; CITY EXPRESS above; 423, WASHINGTON ST., S. E. COR. SANSOME, in two lines at bottom. Frame like last.

Blue on white.

(3). Similar to No. 2, with address changed to S.E. CORNER WASHINGTON AND SANSOME STS. Frame of dotted diamonds, with ornaments at angles. Black impression on white paper.

(4). I might very properly designate this number "The Unknown Adhesive," for I learn that there does exist at least one more variety which I have not seen, and must therefore leave its description to its fortunate possessor.

Handstruck on envelopes.

(A). SAN FRANCISCO above; LETTER EXPRESS below; horseman riding to left in centre. Oval.

Blue, on various ordinary envelopes. (This may have been also used by Robinson, prior to the transfer of his business to G. & H.)

(B). CITY G. & H. EXPRESS at top; 423 WASHN. ST. S. E. COR. in centre; SANSOME ST. below. Double lined oval. Blue.

(C). I also hear of one similarly shaped, but smaller than last, and struck in black.

(D). Also of another much smaller, and inscribed G. & H.; likewise a black impression.

(E). CITY LETTER DELIVERY, S. E. CORNER WASHINGTON AND SANSOME, in scalloped oval, on plain yellow envelope.

I must thank Mr. Philbrick for his kindness in forwarding description of E, which was unknown to me.

GEO. A. CARNES.

Adhesives.

(1). Transverse oval, inscribed CARNES' CITY LETTER EXPRESS. Bear in centre.

Rose on white.

The value of this stamp was 5 c.

(2). Same, with x struck across in blue, altering its value to 10 cents. This was principally used on St. Valentine's day, Mr. Carnes charging double his usual rates for delivering valentines.

(3). Larger than preceding. Oblong enclosing oval, reading CARNES' SAN FRANCISCO LETTER EXPRESS. Angles filled with radiating lines, and monetary value in small ovals. Bear, surmounted by star, in centre.

Black, blue, red, } all on ordinary
bronze, silver, gold, } white paper.

(4). Very large transverse oval, enclosing CARNES' CITY LETTER EXPRESS. Value in centre.

15 cents rose on white.

25 " " " "

(5). Similar to last, but reading CARNES & CO., CITY PACKAGE EXPRESS, 621 MONTG. ST.

15 cents rose on white.

25 " " " "

Handstamp on envelope.

'CITY LETTER EXPRESS in double lined oval. Blue, on ordinary envelope.

Before going any further I would add, that in regard to types 3 and 5 of Carnes' stamps I must confess complete ignorance; or, rather, I should say, that I have received from various sources such entirely contradictory statements as to the purposes for which they were issued, that I give up the subject, in despair of ever arriving at any satisfactory conclusion. It seems to me, however, that we shall not go far wrong in placing them in the same category as the golden-hued trio of Boyd's, Hussey's S. M. Post, and the Indian head and General Grant types of Westervelt's. I am informed by a correspondent that type 4 is above suspicion.

WM. E. LOOMIS.

Adhesive.

(1). Similar to 1 of Carnes', but with proprietor's name cut from the plate. Below the oval frame has been added S. E. COR. WASH'N. AND SANS'E.

Rose on white.

Owing to the clumsy way in which the word CARNES was erased, almost all specimens show traces of either the c or the s.

Loomis, who, it will be remembered, bought out both Gahagan & Howe and Carnes, seems to have used the handstamps of both these firms indiscriminately, as well as his own solitary adhesive. Hence we frequently find the adhesive of the one and the handstamp of the other firms on the same letter.

Below will be found a list of the franks issued by some other companies, which presumably existed about the same time (1860-6), but of whose history I must confess I know nothing.

(A). PUBLIC LETTER OFFICE above, in scroll shape, in large ornamented capitals; NO. 5 in hollow of curve formed by LETTER OFFICE; KEARNY ST. below. In left hand upper corner of envelope, across the end of which is also printed, in old English type, DELIVERED WITHIN ONE HOUR AFTER MAILING. Black, on 2 c. "U. S. POST" envelope. Alongside the government stamp

appears a fancy handstruck impression, reading PAID 15 CTS.

(B). Dr Gray notes a PUBLIC LETTER BOX, 5 KEARNEY STREET, blue, on 1864 envelope.

(C). Also the two following: PUBLIC POST-OFFICE (horseman); black impression.

(D). PRIVATE POST OFFICE (oblong), 15 cents, 25 cents.

Blue, on 1864 envelope.

In regard to the four last described, a correspondent writes as follows:—

I can't find out the least thing about the public and private letter-boxes. Mr. S. says that people used to advertise such things when it was only to take letters to the post-office. He had a small die that he used to stamp on all that were left in his shop; but it was more for an advertisement than for anything else, and I notice in the large newspaper dépôts, where people buy envelopes, &c., that they leave their letters and newspapers to be mailed, instead of taking them to the post-office.

Therefore he thinks that many of these "letter-boxes," &c., were not regular express companies, but merely such as the above.

Before closing I must notice the firm of Hoag & Madison (I also hear of Madison & Burke, but can learn nothing further of any such concern), which was started fully eight years ago by one Bosley (I spell the name from sound), Messrs. Hoag & Madison only "lending their names," and never taking an active interest. A frank was issued, of which all the description that I can obtain is, that "it was some sort of a fancy thing, with a horse in the centre, and printed in red."

This completes my list of San Francisco city letter delivery companies known to have issued postage stamps, although it is quite probable that their example was copied by others whose emissions have not yet come to light. Should any such come under my notice they shall be duly communicated through the columns of this journal.

THE STAMPS OF LA GUAIRA.

BY THE REV. E. B. EARLE.

(Reprinted from "The Philatelic Journal.")

LA GUAIRA and Puerto Cabello are the two seaports of Venezuela (some fifty or sixty miles apart), through one or other of which, all letters to or from the interior must pass. The correspondence for the western part of Venezuela is all sent to Puerto Cabello, whilst

La Guaira sorts all letters for the eastern portion. There are British Packet Agents at both ports, so that those who wish to prepay their letters to England can do so; and these agents represent the British post-office generally, and take charge of, and distribute, all British letters. As we have no postal convention with any of these "pie-crust" South American republics, we are obliged to have agents to look after our correspondence in these places.

The Danish Island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, is the great centre where the mails for the whole of the West Indies and Central and South-west America are split up; and there are several "intercolonial" boats which ply to and fro (amongst many other places) between St. Thomas and the two Venezuelan ports, carrying the correspondence destined, respectively, for the interior or for foreign parts. It is with these boats and their freight that we are at present interested, for letters carried by them must be franked by the stamps which form the subject of this paper. With regard to the boats themselves, a portrait of one of them (whether a correct one or not I cannot say) is to be seen on all the stamps. These stamps are, of course, essentially local ones;—they are of no value for Venezuela, and they are of no value for St. Thomas; but their sole use is to prepay correspondence between La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and St. Thomas. I have been unable to obtain any statistics as to the number of stamps sold, but I do not fancy that the number is very large. Most of those I have seen were unused.

ISSUE OF 1864.

DIE.—The stamps of the *reales* series are from two different dies. The first die has the figures in the corners (1, 8, 6, 4,) very small; the scroll ornaments above and below the ends of the word PAQUETE are distinct, and tolerably well engraved; the sky is very cloudy; the smoke of the steamer is thick and dark; the sea is calm; and the steamer itself looks something like a steamer. The second die has the figures large; the scroll ornaments are coarse; the

sky is almost clear of clouds; the smoke of the steamer looks blotchy; the sea looks more like a cauldron of boiling soap-suds than anything else; and the steamer has rather an abortive appearance. Altogether, I think the first die is decidedly preferable.

PERFORATION.—There are three varieties of perforation,—circular, oblique, and pointed. The first of these is only found in stamps of the first die, whilst both the other varieties are found on those of the second. To an English philatelist it seems rather singular that any country should *begin* with circular perforation, and then deliberately take to an inferior method, because we have been accustomed to see just the reverse; but, then, in these outlandish parts, we cannot expect them to be quite as civilized as we are in England.

GUM.—This is a scarce article in Venezuela; at least, I should judge so from the very small amount upon most of the stamps. What there is, is of a clear white.

PAPER.—The paper varies from soft thickish to *pelure*. And now for the stamps themselves.

DIE I.

Circular Perforation, 13.

Medio real:

Yellowish rose.	}	Thin paper.
Rose.		
Light red.		

Dos reales:

Pale yellow-green,	}	Thin paper.
v. to darkish green.		
Green,		
v. to dark green.	}	Thicker paper.
Yellow-green, pale.		
Green, medium.		
„ dark.		

Medio real:

Pale chalky blue Thin paper.

Dos reales:

Dark orange-yellow Thicker paper.

DIE II.

Oblique Perforation.

Medio real:

Pinkish red,	}	Thicker paper.
v. pale to medium.		
Lake-red,		
v. pale to dark.		

Dos reales:

Chalky green,	}	Thicker paper.
v. pale to medium.		
Yellowish green,	}	Thin paper.
v. pale to darkish.		

Pointed Perforation.

Medio real:

Very pale pink.	}	Thin paper.
Darker pink.		
Rose, v. pale to dark.		
Very dark bright red.		

Dos reales:

Chalky green.	}	Thin paper.
Light „		
Dark „		
Yellow green,		
v. very pale to dark.		
Green,		
v. bright to dark.		

Medio real:

Pale blue.	}	Thicker paper.
Chalky blue.		

Dos reales:

Orange-yellow,	}	Thicker paper.
v. pale to very dark.		
Chalky orange,		
v. pale to medium.		

I have seen very few specimens of the blue and yellow stamps, and have therefore been unable to chronicle many varieties; so far as I know, neither of them exists with oblique perforation. There are a great many shades of colour to be found in the green stamps with pointed perforation, but all, more or less, are *yellow-green*. I have not seen a single *blue-green*, out of all that I have examined. With regard to colour, paper, design, and execution, these stamps always remind me very forcibly of those of British Guiana, and many of the peculiar shades of colour, so difficult to describe in words, are exact counterparts of the shades to be found on the British Guiana stamps; so that those of my readers who feel more puzzled than edified by my description of the different shades, and who do not happen to possess many of the La Guaira stamps, have only to look at their British Guianas, and then they will immediately be able to recognize, and to know for themselves, the shades which I have endeavoured to describe. Of course I do not deem it by any means imperative, or even advisable, that collectors in general should look for, and place in their collections, every stamp that I have catalogued; but, as nothing like a complete list has ever been issued before, this one of mine will serve to show what shades of colour *do* exist, and what varieties collectors may accept, if they choose to do so.

Before proceeding to examine the *cents* issue, I think it necessary to expose the

counterfeits of the stamps last commented upon. These forgeries are all of the first type. At a distance, they have a specious appearance; but when they are more closely examined, they may be easily detected. They are badly perforated, on very white paper, and the colours are chalky, obliterated generally with a heavy black O.

GENUINE.

1. Tail of R in GUAIRA does *not* touch the A.
2. Tail of Q in PAQUETE does *not* touch the line below.
3. Upper limbs of CB and E in CABELLO larger than the lower ones.
4. Steamship sailing on an even keel.
5. Flag distinctly visible below the smoke of the vessel.
6. Mainmast and hal-yards distinct. No mizen.
7. Waves well defined. Bowsprit placed obliquely.
8. Clouds finely engraved.
9. D of MEDIO nearly round, like an O.
10. D of DOS *very* much sloped.
11. 6 touches dot in left-hand corner.

FORGERIES.

1. Tail of R touches A.
2. Tail of Q touches the line below.
3. Lower limbs of C and B larger than the upper ones. E correctly shaped.
4. The steamship heavily loaded at stern, so that the stem is raised.
5. No flag. Smoke covers the place where the flag ought to be.
6. Mainmast very faintly defined. Halyards almost invisible. An imaginary mizenmast depicted.
7. Waves blotchy. Bowsprit parallel with line of deck.
8. Clouds very coarse and heavy.
9. D shaped properly.
10. D nearly upright.
11. 6 is not near the dot.

There are sundry other differences, but I have mentioned the principal ones. Following the genuine, the design varies in the two values. As a rule, forgers are content to take *one* value of the genuine, and make it serve for all the other values, by varying the numerals, &c.,—but in this case they have copied *both* values of the originals.

THE CENTAVO SERIES.

I have come to the conclusion that the stamps of this series were (as Mr. Overy



Taylor says) manufactured at St. Thomas; and that they were intended to frank letters *from* that island *to* La Guaira. There are several things tending to prove that this is the fact.

1. The execution at once shows that Messrs. Waterlow & Sons had no hand in their manufacture.

2. They were not made in Venezuela, because the inscriptions are not in Spanish.

3. Like the stamps for St. Thomas, they are imperforate, whereas the La Guaira issues are perforated.

4. If the facial value for the St. Thomas stamps (3 cents) be an abbreviation for 3 *centavos*, this will be an additional proof that these so-called La Guairas were printed on that island.

5. The microscopic steamship in the lower left-hand corner is sailing to *left*. Does this intimate the return journey?

These reasons may not appear very conclusive taken separately, but I think they are worth something as a whole. These stamps are not nearly so interesting as the *reales* series; nor are they so handsome. They are all printed in black, on coloured wove paper, and have a dingy look about them, which renders them very unattractive. The general appearance of the design reminds one of the 10 pesos, 1868, of New Granada.

Design.—The outer part of the design consists of a heavy-looking black frame, bearing the words ST. THOMAS, LA GUAIRA, PTO. CABELLO, PACKET. In the left-hand bottom corner is a square space, containing a microscopic steamer sailing to *left*. A square frame, inscribed with an octagon, surrounds the steamer. In the right-hand corner is a similar space, but I cannot make out the design which it contains. It *might* be a lighthouse, or a cap of liberty on a pole, or a front elevation of a steamer; but what it really *is*, I think only the engraver himself could tell us.

The central portion of the design is divided into two parts. The upper half contains the inevitable steamer, sailing to *right*, and the sea on which it floats forms the division between the two halves of the design. The steamer in the *reales* series is a *screw*, with jib and foresail set, but in the stamps of this series the voyagers are obliged to content themselves with *paddles*, and have not troubled themselves to set any sail at all.

The lower half contains the numeral of value, with the word CENTAVO in a curve beneath it. Strict grammarians might possibly take objection to the said CENTAVO being in the singular number for all the values; but the designer, apparently, did not trouble himself with such minor details. The numerals, upon the highest and lowest values, are

ornamented in a manner which reminds one of the first issue of Brazil.

Within the frame the whole of the design (with the exception of a small portion at the bottom) is covered with horizontal lines. In the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. these lines are drawn even upon the numeral itself, but in the other values the numeral is not so disfigured.

There are two spandrels at the top corners, two at the bottom, and two supporting the sea, in the centre. Outside the frame is a thin black line. The horizontal lines from the interior are prolonged on the right side into the frame, and partially deface the ELL of the word CABELLO, as though the engraver had been in a hurry, and had drawn his lines too far.

Paper.—The paper is of medium thickness, wove, and somewhat hard.

Gum.—The gum is white and thin, though rather more abundant than on the other emissions.

There are not many varieties of shade, for being on coloured paper, the tints are tolerably uniform.

LIST.

$\frac{1}{2}$ centavo,	greyish white.
1	dull pale rose.
"	reddish violet.
2	dull dark green.
"	chalky green.
3	orange-yellow.
"	dull chalky yellow.
4	chalky blue.
"	bright blue.

Moens catalogues a *two centavos blue*, but I have never seen a copy. All the values exist in several shades of black, so those who wish can triple this list by accepting three well-defined shades which may be found in each value, viz., pale greyish brown, medium black, and deep black. The stamps are all imperforate.

FORGERIES OF THE ST. THOMAS SERIES.

I remarked when I wrote above that the St. Thomas series is not by any means handsome; but I had not seen the forgeries, or I should not have committed myself so far. Beauty and ugliness are, after all, more or less matters of comparison; and so the forgeries of the St. Thomas series make the

genuine labels quite handsome—*by comparison*. I fancy that there are at least two full sets of these forgeries, one set considerably better executed than the other. The better-looking is postmarked with a thick circle, containing sundry thick, unreadable letters; and the postmarks on the other set resemble the outline of the deck of a vessel more than anything else. I will first take the variations from the original, common to both forgeries.

GENUINE.

1. Stop after PACKET.
2. Stop after CABELLO.
3. Groundwork of horizontal lines partially covering the ends of curved scroll.
4. Upper and middle spandrels covered by horizontal lines.
5. Line below ST. THOMAS, if extended upwards, would pass between L and A of LA GUAIRA.
6. Same line, if extended downwards, would not touch the square in lower left-hand corner.

FORGERIES.

1. No stop after PACKET.
2. No stop after CABELLO.
3. Horizontal lines do not pass the boundary lines of scroll.
4. Lines do not cover the spandrels.
5. Line would cut through the middle of the lower limb of L.
6. Line would cut into the square.

The above differences exist in *both* forgeries. We will now take each set separately, and compare with the genuine.

GENUINE.

1. All lettering in framework *thick*.
2. Letters of PACKET close together.
3. Scroll rounded off both at beginning and end.
4. Stop after CENTAVO placed in the *outline* of scroll.
5. CENTAVO in singular for all values.
6. P of PACKET, and stop after PACKET, at equal distance from sides of frame.

FIRST, OR BETTER FORGERY.

1. Lettering in framework very thin.
2. Letters of PACKET far apart.
3. Scroll rounded off at end, but unfinished at beginning.
4. $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 cent. have stop *inside* scroll; the other values have no stop at all.
5. CENTAVO on $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 cent. only; all the other values have CENTAVOS.
6. P of PACKET very near the side of frame, but as there is no stop, the T appears very far from the other side.

GENUINE

1. CENTAVO in a scroll.
2. Steamship tolerably well drawn.
3. All the ropes in the rigging can be easily counted.

SECOND, OR INFERIOR FORGERY.

1. CENTAVO without scroll.
2. Steamship *very* coarsely executed.
3. Ropes in rigging very indistinct; and it is impossible to count them with any certainty.

This second forgery is so very coarsely done, that I need say no more about it; but the first one is much more likely to deceive the uninitiated.

CURACAO SERIES.

These stamps have a very pleasing appearance, and yet the design is very simple. In the centre is a three-masted screw steamship, sailing to left, on a moderately calm sea. There are no clouds, but above the vessel is a scroll containing the words of value. Below the vessel are the initials J. A. J. & Z in old English type, and below them the word CURACAO

in Egyptian type; above, below, and at sides are solid labels with rounded ends, and lettered PAQUETE, SAN TOMAS, LA GUAYRA, PTO. CABELLO. In each corner is a solid circle, inscribed, in a square, and containing the value in figures. The external line running round the stamp is indented or scalloped, as in the oval Saxon adhesives.

Paper. The paper is a yellowish white wove, and stouter than in either of the other issues.

Gum.—The gum is, as usual, very thin, and very sparingly laid on.

Perforation.—There are two varieties of perforation; punctured 10, and circ. perf. 13; but I cannot find out whether both values exist in both varieties of perforation. Unfortunately, I have very few specimens to describe from; and the following are all the varieties I have seen.

Punctured perf. 10.

Medio real, pale yellow-green.

" darker "

Circ. perf. 13.

Dos reales, very pale rose.

" deep carmine-rose.

This series does not appear to have been forged.

My notes are now completed, and I trust that the perusal of them will be of real benefit to my fellow-philatelists.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

NEW ZEALAND.—Annexed is the promised engraving of the new halfpenny stamp. We

have no need to apologise for deficiencies in the reproduction, for it is, in fact, about equal in finish to the original, which, we are happy to say, does not emanate from the De La Rue ateliers. We have little doubt,

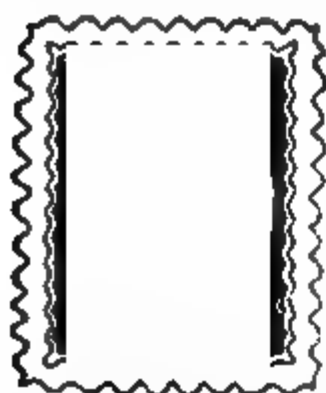
in fact, that the design was engraved and printed in the colony; the style, ink, paper, and perforation, combined with the absence of any watermark, are all in favour of the correctness of this assumption. The profile of the Queen, of which the expression is very accurately rendered in our engraving, is unlike any other stamp-portrait of Her Majesty. The design, as a whole, was no doubt suggested by that of our own halfpenny stamp, to which, however, we much prefer it; the rectangular shape, the legible inscriptions, and general simplicity of arrangement giving the New Zealand product a far more pleasing appearance. As stated in our last, the impression is in pink, on white (wove) paper. The perforations are ragged and uneven, and smaller at the sides than they are at top and bottom.

BARBADOS. From an obliging correspondent in Barbados we are favoured with early intelligence of the intended issue of two new values—a threepence mauve and five shilling brown, the latter to be of a colour approaching that of the present English sixpenny. Orders to that effect were despatched from the colony on the 29th January last, and are probably in course of execution at present. The Barbadian officials remain faithful to the old design; the two new values are to be printed from the existing dies, and instructions have been given for the preparation of a supply of the current fourpenny stamp, with the value added.

GUATEMALA.—Mrs. Craig, of San Francisco, writes us that it is several months since specimens of the new Guatemala stamps came to the post-office of that town, and that she obtained, through a friend at the office, *

copy of the 4 rls. lilac, which had certainly prepaid the postage of a letter from Guatemala. She has also heard a report of the existence of the yellow (1 peso) stamp, and she adds that both lilac and yellow must be genuine, "unless Allan Taylor has bribed some of the postal officials in Guatemala to use them in order to get off one of his practical jokes at the expense of you Englishmen." Truly a novel suggestion.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Podolsk* (Moscow).—What can be the meaning of the two crutch-



like ornaments, *saltire*, which adorn the *Podolsk* stamps? We refer to the first description of the stamp, given in our own ninth volume, but find nothing there to help us, the device being simply described as "arms." In this difficulty we appeal to our

St. Petersburg correspondent. In general appearance the stamp closely resembles the issues for *Bogorodsk*, *Bronnitsi*, and *Kolonna*, and there can be but little doubt that it is from the hands of the same engraver. The impression is in green, on white paper. There are two shades of colour, blue-green and yellow-green. The stamps are *perçés en ligne*.

Syrvan (Simbirsk).—In the spelling of these names we adopt the orthography of *Le Timbre-Poste*, from which journal we extract the account of this stamp and of those noticed in the two succeeding paragraphs. The *Syrvan* emission has hitherto escaped attention. The inscription reads—STAMP OF THE RURAL POST—5 KOP.—OF THE



DISTRICT OF SYRVAN (the latter clause being expressed by an abbreviation). The impression is blue on *solferino*. There is a rather curious variety of this type, namely, a stamp every line on which is preceded by a repetition of the first letter or figure, and a vertical line to the left; thus 5 kop. becomes 55 kop.

Tiraspol (Cherson).—This is another un-

known stamp, more rare than beautiful. The circular inscription signifies ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIRASPOL DISTRICT, and the central inscription, STAMP FOR PACKETS AND PRIVATE LETTERS, 5 KOP. Printed in dark blue on white paper.

Berdiansk (Taurida.) The current stamp exists in two very distinct shades, viz.:—

- 10 kop. blue and yellow-green.
- 10 " greenish blue and pale yellowish green.

CUBA.—The subjoined types, first noticed in our December, are now doing duty in the

Spanish Antilles. It will be observed that the only points in which the peseta differed from the other values are—the arrangement of the inscription in the lower margin, and the suppression of the corner disks. The proofs of the series comprised a 12 c., but the anticipation that the value would not be issued has been verified, the emitted set consisting of the following denominations:—

- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 12½ c. | green. |
| 25 " | lilac. |
| 50 " | brownish bistre. |
| 1 peseta | yellowish bistre. |

It seems a pity that the two high values should both be printed in shades of one and the same colour.

UNITED STATES.—The long-expected post card is to make its appearance on the first of this month. The *American Journal of Philately* contains an engraving of the design which, though rich, strikes us as being rather heavy. It, however, preserves a dis-

inctive character of its own, which is maintained even in the inscriptions. The post card becomes, in American phraseology, a "postal" card, and the instructions are conveyed in the following rather abrupt formula: *Write the address only on this side, the message on the other*; the latter clause seems rather superfluous. The card is rather larger than the English one. It has a broad effectively ornamented border. Within, in the upper right corner, is the stamp—a profile bust of Liberty, ornamented with the Phrygian bonnet, in a solid oval, with a broad engine-turned frame, inscribed U. S. POSTAGE above, and the value in words below. Crossing the card, in a waved line from left to right, are the words UNITED STATES in bold letters, and beneath in smaller type, in a curved line, POSTAL CARD. Below that again, in a straight line, come the instructions above quoted. There is one fault in the arrangement, and that is that sufficient space is not left for the address. Our contemporary does not mention the colour of the card or of the impression.

TOLIMA.—The *Philatelist* for April, published the annexed engraving which is that of a stamp communicated to the editor by a correspondent. No satisfactory information being as yet forthcoming respecting it, its character cannot be vouched for. It is a rather coarse lithograph; colour blue; value 20 centavos.

VICTORIA.—M. Moens, in his current number, says, "Hitherto it has been taken for granted that the issue of the stamps with emblems in the angles and a star watermark, took place in 1859. One of our correspondents sends us an envelope prepaid with two of these stamps, a penny and a fourpenny, and bearing the postmark, *Hamilton, 17th July, 1857.*"

CANADA.—By the courtesy of a Montreal subscriber we are in possession of specimens of the current three cents, printed in bright orange-vermilion. A supply in this colour has just been issued.

SHANGHAI.—The supply of the brown 1

candareen being exhausted, a provisional supply of that value has been obtained by obliquely surcharging the 4 cand. with the inscription 1 CAND, and certain Chinese characters. The surcharged stamps are of two shades, violet-grey and lilac-grey.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.—We have just seen a sheet of one centavo stamps, of the 1872 type, printed in pink, the same colour as that used for the first issue (1865) of that value.

ICELAND.—The promised 3 skilling has made its appearance. It is of the same design as the other values of the series, for general use, and is printed pale grey.

SPAIN.—It is reported that the provisional government is making arrangements for the issue of a new series of stamps.

A PEEP INTO THE GREY BOOK.

THE Grey Book is the French *Annuaire des Postes*. It may be said to consist of our *Postal Guide*, and the Postmaster-General's *Report* rolled into one, though it is destitute of those gossiping items which lend a certain interest to Mr. Monsell's periodical publication. It is, in short, made up of rules, statistics, and rates; but notwithstanding the dry aspect of its pages, it contains some instructive items of information, which we purpose laying before our readers.

The first noticeable regulation is that whereby the sender of a letter is allowed to withdraw it from the box into which he has thrown it. In this country, a letter once flung into the official receptacle is beyond reclaim. In France, if a letter thus placed in charge of the office has been wrongly addressed, the sender can obtain communication of it prior to its despatch, upon showing the seal which he has employed to fasten it, and a fac-simile of the address. He is then allowed to rectify the address. Should he wish entirely to withdraw the letter, he must, in addition to the foregoing formalities, declare in writing that he is the author of it, and engage to hold himself responsible for its suppression. He must, furthermore, be known to the postmaster, or else be accompanied by two witnesses, and in his or their presence the letter must be opened, in order

that the postmaster may assure himself of the identity of its signature with that of the claimant. The privileges thus accorded are, to our knowledge, occasionally made use of by commercial houses.

The foregoing is a sensible regulation; the following is a vexatious one. "Printed matter, samples, and manuscripts must be enveloped in wrappers or bands covering at most *one-third* of the surface." For years past this rule has not been strictly observed, but within the last two or three months a circular has been issued by the head office, requiring all postmasters to put it rigorously in force, and no little annoyance has been caused by this whim of the administration. To us, accustomed as we are to much greater postal liberty, such a regulation seems unreasonable. The post gains nothing by a diminution in the superficies of the band. All the explanation of the reason for the rule which we could get from a French postmaster was, that merchants, profiting by the indulgence accorded by the post-office, had gone on extending the dimensions of the band, until it at length frequently covered the circular, and thus acquired the appearance of an envelope. Now communications under cover obtain generally more attention than mere circulars *sous bandes*, and the senders of the circulars enclosed in large wrappers were thus, in the eyes of the wise postal officials, getting more than their money's worth. The explanation seems very childish, but we give it as a specimen of French official reasoning. There has been a lively discussion on the subject in some of the papers, but the edict has not been recalled; rather has it been confirmed by a fresh order from the French general post-office, requesting postmasters to reject circulars on which the postage stamp is so affixed as to keep the band in its place. The stamp must be entirely on the band. We expect shortly to see a fresh order, forbidding the senders to stick the stamps on upside down, or to place them in a diagonal position.

For the information of the public and of the postal officials, for whom this book is primarily intended, a list of the stamps in use is given, and we must not omit to quote

it, for it contains a striking piece of intelligence. It reads as follows:—

"The postage stamps are of *thirteen* different values, namely, 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., 30 c., 40 c., *fifty c.*, 80 c., and 5 francs." We could hardly believe our own eyes when we saw the 50 centimes quoted, in an official publication, as an existent value. Yet there it is, plain enough, and the number of thirteen can only be made up by including it. This shows, in a surprising manner, how little confidence can be put in official statements; for there is not, and never has been, a 50 c. stamp. What a pity this accurate publication does not mention the colour of the mythical value!

Let us turn now to the statistics. It will be within the recollection of our readers that in the autumn of 1871 the interior letter-rate was raised from 20 to 25 centimes, in the expectation that the advance would result in an increase of revenue. We are very happy to say this expectation has not been verified. On the contrary, the profits of the post-office for the year 1871 were some $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions of francs less than those of the year 1869 (we leave 1870 out of the reckoning, as it was an exceptional year), and though we are not in possession of official statistics, we have good reason to believe that the results since obtained have not been more satisfactory. Hence it is probable that the rate will soon be reduced to the old level. In further confirmation of the effect produced by the increase of the rate we may state that the number of letters which passed through the post-office in 1871 was less than in any year since 1864.

The French post-office is not nearly so progressive as our own. In 1848, about 122 million letters passed through it, and in 1869, only 364 millions. The number of stamps sold does not amount to more than half that of the English stamps. In 1871 it was only 483 millions.

Transgressions of the postal laws in France are, or rather were, it appears, by no means uncommon. In 1860, no less than 2711 persons were summoned for making use of stamps which had already passed the post. Of this larger number, however, nearly forty per cent were acquitted, the convictions being

only 1623, and the convicted persons being let off, on payment of a fine varying from two to forty pounds. A foot-note is added to the table which gives these results, explaining the acquittals from the fact that the law only punishes those who *knowingly* use stamps which have previously served. The number of delinquents diminishes each year. In 1871 there were but 408 summonses, and 205 convictions. Besides, or instead of, the infliction of a fine, we find imprisonment resorted to in the case of military culprits. In 1860, twenty-one such transgressors passed a period, varying from five to thirty days, in prison. In 1869, only five soldiers were found guilty, and in 1870 and '71 the ranks were free from offenders.

The post-office has no choice but to hand over to the civil courts persons detected in the act of employing used stamps, but in the case of minor infractions of the postal laws, such for instance as the illicit conveyance of letters, the insertion of notes or other illicit memoranda in packets of printed matter, &c., it has power to *transiger*,—that is to say, to settle with the offender the terms of his submission. Thus in 1860 there were 7575 such infractions, and in 7522 cases a *transaction* was arranged, with a total net benefit to the Treasury of about £1480; the remaining 53 offenders allowed the matter to be carried into court, and were all convicted. In 1866, the number of delinquents rose to over 13,000, and the fines brought in some £3600. Latterly, it is evident the post-office has become rather more severe, for with only 6757 cases there was a net yield of £1360.

It may be assumed that mercantile houses and carriers are the principal sinners. Letters, &c., are sent hidden in packages of goods, and from time to time the post-office makes a descent on the railway stations, opens the packages, and fines the senders. That letters are thus sent merely for the sake of saving postage, we hardly think. It is probable that in many instances there is a gain of time by forwarding them inside the packages.

Turning over the pages, we come lastly to the tariff, and find, in a note which heads it, the information, that correspondence is stamped with the letters P. D. when the rate quoted on the tariff represents the convey-

ance to destination, and with the letters P. P. when the rate only represents prepayment up to a certain point, the remaining expense having to be borne by the receiver. The rates themselves offer no subject for observation.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Le Timbre Poste.—The current number of this journal is composed of but two articles, the Chronicle, and the continuation of Dr. Magnus's exhaustive monograph on stamped envelopes. From the former we have extracted various notices of new postage stamps, but have not borrowed any of the descriptions of telegraph emissions. The latter are regularly chronicled in the continental papers, but in this country they have not taken root. We freely admit that they are collectable, but until we find ourselves in presence of a clearly manifested desire on our readers' part for information respecting them, we do not feel justified in discussing them in our columns.

In the *Chronique* we find reference to another new forgery,—that of the 50 baj. Roman States. The paper of the counterfeit is of a yellowish tint; the letters of the inscription, FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE; are rather larger than in the original; and the ball above the N in franco is incomplete, but the decisive tests are the festoons of the papal tiara. In the counterfeit these lines are *horizontal*.

Dr. Magnus completes in the number before us the analysis of the French envelope essays. The designs submitted by M. Renard are treated of. They were printed by, and were intended to demonstrate the advantage of, an automatic machine, by which all the operations connected with the stamping—such as the placing of the paper, the inking of the dies, the impression, the gumming and folding of the envelope—are effected under the superintendence of a single person, and with the aid of an insignificant steam power. This machine was capable of producing 20,000 copies per day, but the invention was never called into active use. The designs themselves were but recently referred to in these pages. The French essays

dismissed, the doctor next turns to Spain, and under that heading an engraving of a rather striking envelope essay is introduced. The original is in the collection of the learned doctor. The design consists of an embossed bust of the Queen in a large upright inscribed oval, with CORREOS above and 4 CUARTOS below, the space between the inscription being filled with an Arabesque pattern. There is a second and similar, but smaller, type struck in plain relief, without colour, on white and coloured papers. These designs are almost unknown to philatelists, and nothing positive can be gathered as to their origin.

The Philatelist.—The most noticeable article in the April number of our Brighton contemporary, is the Spud paper, in which Mr. Pemberton dissects the Sierra Leone and Fiji counterfeits. With regard to the former, which is a tolerably successful imitation, Mr. Pemberton says, "There is one thing that may be taken as an instant test, and that is the white appearance of the profile from the top of the crown to the end of the nose; and again, there is the same effect down the neck, which is unnatural, and due to bad workmanship. The lozenges in the angles containing the cross are mathematically true and perfect, and *all four alike* in the real stamp, though not so in the forgery. But, however we may pull its weak points to pieces, the whiteness of the profile remains *the* test, because the other points require comparison with an original; and when a forgery cannot be detected from its description alone it is proof that the tests are not true."

The chief fault in the forgery of the surcharged Fiji stamp is the shape of the base of the crown: in the genuine the bottom line is perfectly straight, but in the counterfeit curved or convex.

Mr. Pemberton laments, and with reason, that the miserable sameness of style, colour, paper, perforation, and obliteration, common to these vermin, is not sufficient to ensure their detection at sight, but the fact is, the buyers of these imitations are principally boys whose collections have no philatelic interest, and who know nothing about stamps—who collect blindly for the mere sake of amassing a certain number of labels, because

in so doing the pence which are burning in their pockets find an outlet. It is none the less in the highest degree regrettable that they should be the victims of an organised and but too profitable fraud, but how to reach or warn them is the difficulty. These ignorant buyers of forgeries are our philatelic pagans. Perhaps if they could be got at, their blind confidence and equally blind distrust might be undermined; but where are the missionaries for this good work? If only papers such as Mr. Pemberton's could be brought under their notice their credulity would soon give place to discernment, but we fear that philatelic magazines are rarely read by this numerous class of collectors, who may truly be styled timbromaniacs.

THE UNITED STATES POST CARDS.

It was intended, says *The Springfield Union*, from which the following particulars are extracted,* to have the cards printed and in use during 1872, but, by a singular oversight, the Forty-second Congress closed its second session, last spring, without making any appropriation for their manufacture, and the matter thus had to go over. The mistake was corrected at the opening of Congress in December, when an appropriation of \$800,000 was voted for the manufacture of postal cards and stamped envelopes. The Postmaster General advertised for proposals to manufacture the postal cards, January 23, and on the 27th of February the contract was awarded to the Morgan Envelope Company of this city, which offered to furnish the cards at \$1.39 7-8 per thousand. The next highest bidder was George H. Reay, of New York, whose price was \$1.59 1-4 per thousand. The whole number of competitors was 14. The contractors agree to furnish one hundred million cards the first year, and more if required. The orders received at the department already amount to over 30,000,000, and are increasing every day, so that the Postmaster General calculates that at least

* We are indebted to our old and esteemed correspondent, Mr. L. H. Bagg, for communication of the newspaper from which these extracts are made. The article is adorned with an illustration of the forthcoming card, which, as regards the border pattern, differs considerably from the *A. J. P.'s* engraving.

130,000,000 cards will be called for the first year.

The cards are to be printed on what is known as "bond paper," that is paper which is worked together in a solid sheet without pasting. They will be five and one-eighth inches long, by three inches wide, and are of two shades of velvet-brown, bearing on one side a stamp with the "liberty" head, surrounded by the words U. S. POSTAGE ONE CENT, in lathe work, and having besides the words UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD. Printed across the face are lines for the address, with the letters U. S. P. O. D., one-and-a-half inches long, in a watermark across the body of the card. The weight is to be six pounds to the thousand.

By the terms of the contract the manufacturers must have 500,000 cards ready for delivery May 1, and a gang of workmen are busy getting the east part of the ground floor of the Morgan Envelope Company's factory on Worthington street, ready for the printing apparatus. The walls of that section of the building are of brick, and consequently fire-proof, but the ceiling of the room has been strengthened by a coating of corrugated iron, which will be covered with mortar. The whole of No. 84 will be given up to the manufacture, which will employ sixteen hands. The press, of which mention was recently made in *The Union*, will be capable of striking off 35,000 cards per hour, or 350,000 per day. The agent, who will have a general superintendence of the manufacture as well as the forwarding, will have his office and that of his clerks in the front part of the room facing the street. In the rear a fire-proof vault is to be erected, 23 feet wide, 40 feet long, and 10 feet high, large enough to hold 15,000,000 cards. The walls of the vault are to be 12 inches thick. There will be one entrance from the rear of the work-room, by means of a doorway three by six and one-half feet. This will be protected by double iron doors.

The Morgan Envelope Company, which will fill this important contract for the coming four years, is among the most energetic and successful of our many manufacturing concerns. Upon a small beginning, they have built up a large business in the

making and sale of envelopes, and have combined therewith several kindred manufactures, which have also assumed large proportions. All the articles from their factory heretofore have been characterised by neatness and tastefulness, so that as stationers, as well as envelope makers, their goods have become widely popular. There is every reason, therefore, to expect that the new postal cards will be neatly and handsomely gotten up, and so be a credit to the concern and satisfactory to government and people.

There has been much speculation as to the merits and demerits of the postal card system, many claiming that it will be used as a means of blackmailing and venting personal spleen, as has been the case to some extent in England, where the system has been in vogue some time. But the present postal regulations provide that any letter or package having on its envelope gross or obscene words shall be sent to the dead letter-office, and this law will of course apply to postal cards. No sooner had the system been voted than private parties began getting up postal cards on their own hook and sending them through the mail, with the usual one cent stamp affixed. As each card bore an inscription similar to the following: "Lipman's postal card, patent applied for," every one making its appearance at the post-office is confiscated and sent to the dead letter-office at Washington. Without the postal inscription the cards would have been allowed to pass like other mail matter.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE meeting held on the 12th ult. was but thinly attended, many of the members being absent from town. The president and others showed the stamps announced for examination; but the meeting was not marked by any specially noticeable feature. The next meeting is announced to take place on Saturday, the 3rd May, when the stamps of Mexico and the other Central American States will form the subject of a probably interesting discussion.

An error crept into our report of the March meeting. The rare *medio peso* red, of Peru, was accidentally misnamed *half dinero*.

THE MORTON STAMPS.— MR. PANOPOULO'S EXPLANATION.

REFERENCE was made by us in a recent review of "Our Contemporaries" to an article published in *Le Timbre-Poste*, in reply to a letter from Mr. Panopoulo which appeared in these pages. Mr. Panopoulo now writes us in vindication of the Morton stamps, and whilst declining to imitate the style of the article in question, or even to discuss it in detail, he hands us copies of the letters referred to by M. Moens, and accompanies them with the following certificate, of the genuine character of which we see no reason to doubt.

At the request of Mr. Panopoulo, ex-director of our postal department, and in order to clear all doubts respecting the authenticity of our postage-stamp emissions, as chronicled in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, we hereby certify that the said emissions were duly authorised by us, and the said stamps used for the payment of letters carried by our steamers to local ports, but are no more in use since we ceased to run on the coasting trade.

T. B. MORTON & CO.

Constantinople, 25th March, 1873.

The authenticity of the signature is supported by an impression from the company's ordinary handstamp.

We have read over the letters which Mr. Panopoulo puts in. They are the letters of a business man, and no importance one way or another attaches to a terminating expression, such as "*Dans l'espoir que vous serez content.*" We have seen similar phrases in letters from properly constituted postmasters advising the enclosure of parcels of stamps, and it must be borne in mind that the managers of private post-offices, unsubsidised by the state, can never take such high ground in their correspondence, and appear so indifferent to the sale of a certain quantity of stamps, as the officials of a government department. Some *soupçon* of the influence of "filthy lucre" clings to nearly all private stamps. Even granting their *bonâ-fide* employment, the issuers of such stamps, if they are acquainted with the demand which exists for them among collectors, and the value set on varieties, are tempted to find excuse for making frequent changes in the colours and designs, in order to replenish their coffers. That Mr. Panopoulo has

shown any exceptional resistance to temptations of this kind, we do not pretend, but we certainly do not look on the Morton stamps, taken altogether, as inferior in value to those of other private offices. Whether his emoluments were derived from the sale of the stamps, or whether he was a salaried servant of the company, we know not; but the question, though it may be looked on as an impertinent one, is one which in reality is of no small importance in determining the exact philatelic value of varieties of stamps, which it is evident from the above certificate were primarily issued for the purpose of a genuine postal service.

M. Moens, in his article, made a great deal of the fact that Mr. Panopoulo had requested him to send all future orders for stamps directly to him. The entire phrase reads as follows.

N.B.—Veuillez adresser vos futures commandes en mon nom aux soins de Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co., en ajoutant:—"le Receveur des Postes de la Compagnie."

M. Moens only quoted the first clause, but it is clear, on reading the whole sentence, that no concealment was intended on Mr. Panopoulo's part, and the request simply proves that the postal affairs were under his control.

The only thing in the correspondence of which we do not quite like the look, is the following postscript to a letter of the 8th November, 1871.

P.S.—Des timbres ronds blancs *sans* le Steamer, il ne nous en restent plus pour le moment; j'espère pouvoir vous en envoyer par ma prochaine, si vous en voudrez.

The stamps without the steamer, it will be remembered, composed the first series; and the stamps with steamer, the second. The same die was used for both series, the second being formed by engraving the steamer in a blank space above the word FRANCO. When once this steamer was added it necessarily became impossible to get by fair means any more impressions of the design as it stood in the first series. Now Mr. Panopoulo, in the above postscript, says that he has no more of the white stamps without steamer left; but that he expects to be able to send some in his next letter. But how was he to get them? How was he to get from a die

bearing a representation of a steamer, an impression without steamer? It could only be done, as the opponents of the Morton stamps allege it *has* in fact been done, by first covering over, or stopping up, the representation of the steamer. Now on this point we certainly want some explanations from Mr. Morton. His offer to procure a further supply of nonexistent stamps may be capable of a perfectly innocent explanation, but until we receive it we must say our faith in the "steamerless" impressions is considerably shaken.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXVIII.

BY OVERT TAYLOR.

EUROPE

Hamburg.*

THE stamps of the free city of Hamburg, though they cannot lay claim to any remarkable delicacy of execution, are distinguished by a pleasing quaintness of design, and when grouped together their varied colours show off to great advantage, rendering the page to which they are attached one of the most striking of those devoted to European countries. Another thing which, from a beginner's point of view, is very much in their favour, is that there are, properly speaking, no rarities among them. A novice, commencing his collection to-day, may, with a very small outlay of patience and cash, obtain the whole series, and no great exertions are needed to obtain an acquaintance with their particularities.

The first emission was brought out on the 1st January, 1859, and consisted of the following values:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ schilling,	black.
1 "	brown.
2 "	red.
3 "	blue.
4 "	green.
7 "	orange.
9 "	yellow.

The design consists of the numeral of value

* The publication of the paper on Greece which, in accordance with the alphabetical order adopted, should precede the present, is unavoidably deferred.—O. T.

surcharged on the city arms (a castle with two turrets flanking a central and cross-crowned dome). The exceeding similarity between the stamps might lead to the supposition that all the values were produced from one original die, the numerals being cut over the arms. Such,

however, is not the case. On comparing any two values together slight variations will become perceptible. Attention may be specially directed to the stars over the towers; they are of all shapes and sizes. It may also be noticed, incidentally, that the arabesque ornament in the left upper corner is modified according to the exigencies of the different inscriptions of value. In the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling it disappears altogether; in the 7 schilling it is reduced to a trio of curves. As all these stamps were engraved on metal, the time employed in producing them must have been considerable. Possibly the expense of the initial series had something to do with the decision to employ lithography for the production of two new values which appeared in April, 1864. They were the

$1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling	lilac.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	green.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling differs from the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling in having the name HAMBURG in an hori-

zontal instead of an arched label, and also in having a Maltese cross in each corner. In every other respect,

it will be seen, the design of both is the same. The castle is smaller than on the engraved stamps, and the reduction in its size has enabled the draughtsman to favour us with an idea of the masonry by which it is supported.

Of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch. numerous colour-varieties exist, which are, in fact, the natural results of the choice of a colour so extremely unsceptible to change as lilac. A slight alteration in the proportions of the various ingredients used in its composition may fre-

quently produce marked differences in tint. It may be affirmed that no two successive editions of a lilac, mauve, or violet stamp are of precisely the same shade, and the chances are that the second shows great divergence from the first. Such being the case no great attention can be claimed for the variations which are unintentionally, yet unavoidably, produced. Suffice it to say that the stamp was first issued in lilac, and that it exists in violet, in grey, in green, and (according to one authority) in blue.

All the foregoing stamps are watermarked with an undulating line easily perceptible when they are held up to the light. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, it is true, exists, or is said to exist, unwatermarked; I have, however, never met with this variety, and it is only noted by one author.

In October, 1864, the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., 1 sch., 2 sch., 3 sch., 4 sch., 7 sch., and 9 schilling were issued perforated. No change in colour then occurred, but most of the values were printed in rather paler shades. In 1865, the colour of the 7 schilling was altered to mauve, and the 3 schilling ultramarine—probably an accidental variety—appeared. At about the same time the $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling were perforated. The latter was issued in two tolerably distinct shades—dark green and yellow green. Since the suppression of the Hamburg office, unperforated copies of the 7 schilling mauve have appeared, and, though no postmarked specimens have been met with, the authenticity of this variety is generally admitted.

In 1866, contemporaneously with the emission of a series of envelopes, two new stamps, embossed like those on the envelopes, were issued. They were the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling deep lilac, and a new value, the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, carmine, both very effective impressions. The former is represented by the annexed engraving. The latter is of the same design minus the exterior rectangle and corner ornaments. In fact the type of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling is precisely that of the envelope stamps, and the perforations alone give it the appearance of a rectangle.



In the spring of 1867, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling green, issued in 1864, was rather unaccountably superseded by a stamp of the first type, of the same value. Possibly depreciation of the lithographic stones may have been the cause, but the blurred lithographs were hardly rougher than the typographic impressions

from the new die. The second $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling is but a seedy relation of the earlier values of the same type; it is watermarked, however, like them, perforated, and owns to two distinct shades—yellow-green and blue-green, of which the former has now become relatively rare.

Had there been an embossed $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling envelope, no doubt the die would have been used when in 1867 a new adhesive of that value was called for; but to have cut one specially to meet a temporary demand would have been inexpedient, and hence, so we may argue, the recourse to the 1859 design. Notwithstanding this reversion to the original type, however, it is permissible to suppose that had the Hamburg post-office continued in existence, a complete series of embossed adhesives would have been issued.

ENVELOPES.

A series of envelopes, prepared in the Berlin printing-office, was issued on the 5th April, 1866. The design adopted, and here represented, was originally engraved for impression on two post-office order forms issued on the 1st January of the same year. The values of the latter were, respectively, 3 sch. blue, and 4 sch. green; the colours are the same as those afterwards chosen for the envelopes of the same denominations, and perhaps, in strictness, these money-order stamps are collectable, inasmuch as they represented not only the cost of the order, but also the postage. However, leaving the hybrids to come up for judgment at some future time, let us examine the envelope stamps of which they were the prototypes.



The series consists of the following values and colours :—

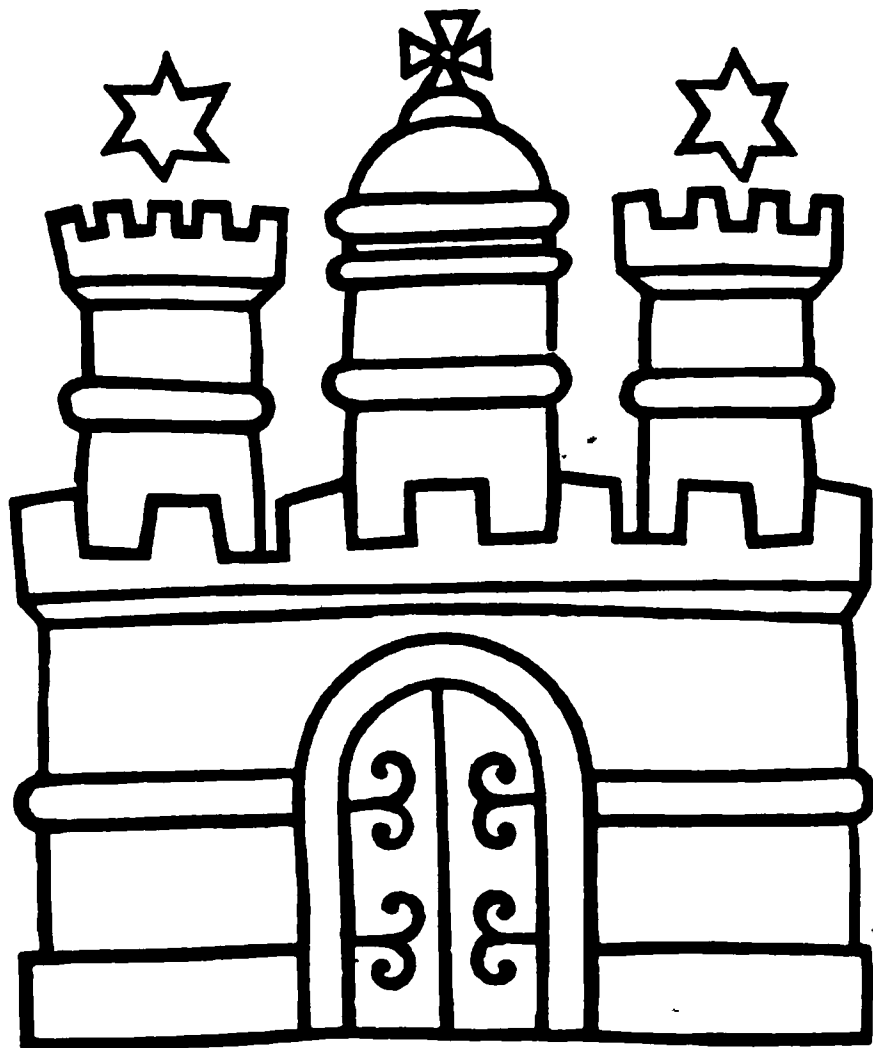
$\frac{1}{2}$	schilling,	black.
$1\frac{1}{2}$	„	violet.
$1\frac{1}{2}$	„	rose, crimson.
2	„	shades of orange-vermilion.
3	„	shades of ultramarine blue.
4	„	shades of yellow-green.
7	„	lilac.

They are a well-looking series ; the design is clearly cut, and the colours brilliant. Above the stamp is the ordinary diagonal inscription EIN HALBER (EIN U. EIN VIERTEL, &c., according to the value), SCHILLING (or SCHILLINGE) POST COUVERT in black ink. *Schilling*, be it observed, is the singular, and *schillinge* the plural. Now it happens that throughout the whole of the series the impressed stamp uniformly bears the word *schilling* in the singular, whatever may be the value, whilst the diagonal inscriptions on the envelopes of the 3 sch., 4 sch., and 7 sch. are in the plural. The 2 sch. envelope, however, presents the anomaly of having the word *schilling* in the singular throughout the inscription. Hence it would seem, either that the envelopes of 2 schillings in their entirety, and the higher values, in as far as concerns the embossed stamps, are examples of grammatical errors, or that there is a looseness about the rule requiring the addition of a final s to the word which renders compliance with it immaterial.

There are no varieties in this series, other than those formed by the colours, as indicated by the above list, and they are simply accidental. Of differences in the tinting of the white paper, on which the impressions were struck, it is unnecessary to dwell, but the issue of four of the values on watermarked paper must not be passed over in silence, for they may be almost taken to form a new series, or at least a new edition. Their emission occurred in February, 1867. The values constituting the watermarked edition were struck in Hamburg, and issued in the following colours :—

$\frac{1}{2}$	schilling,	black.
2	„	orange-vermilion, various shades.
3	„	blue.
4	„	green.

The design of the watermark, which was of unusual dimensions, is here given in its full size. The envelopes which bear it are



further distinguished by the fact that in the diagonal inscriptions, the word *schilling* is always in the singular, notwithstanding that the value may be in the plural. It only remains to add, that the 3 sch., although prepared for service, was never really issued, and at the end of the year in which the watermarked envelopes made their appearance, the Hamburg service and its stamps were suppressed.

It will be remarked that the intermediate values between the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. and the 2 sch. do not figure in the watermarked edition. The reason, as far as concerns the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch., is that that value had been suppressed, and in consequence of its short currency, the unwatermarked $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling envelope has become rare. This has led to its being reprinted. The easiest way to distinguish the reprint from the original, is to examine the words *post-couvert* in the diagonal inscription; in original copies these words are united by a line, in the reprints by a dot.

POST CARD.

The following was published in *The Philatelist* for February, 1871. "We are indebted

to a correspondent for the description of a North German (presumably local for Hamburg) post card, as follows: size, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. nearly; very pale buff. Inscribed, NORD DEUTSCHES POST-GEBIET CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE, &c. A rectangle in the right-hand upper corner contains the violet Hamburg adhesive without value, and the back of the card is ruled longitudinally with eleven fine dotted lines in grey." This is circumstantial enough, but I have never seen any such a card myself, nor can I trace the slightest reference to it in any other journal.

ESSAYS, PROOFS, &c.

In the early days of stamp-collecting, frequent inquiries were made for a Hamburg "Interpostal" stamp, for which Lallier had allotted a space in his album. No such stamp, however, ever existed; but what appears to have been so christened by the careless French compiler, was an oblong impression, mentioned by Levrault as an essay, engraved in 1858, a year before the first emission, and containing the figure 1 in the centre on castle, SCHG. on each side, FR. STADT. HAMBURG above, and POSTMARKE beneath. This essay, which I described in an article published in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in 1865, was printed on a delicate rose ground in black ink, on white paper.

"No end" of proofs of the ordinary adhesives exist, and they are of no real value, having been struck off to meet, or rather to create a demand. It is needless to catalogue either them or the "Instruction" stamps, similar to those of Bavaria, of which the use has already been explained.

LOCAL STAMPS.

The Hamburg locals may be dismissed with but few remarks. They were issued at a time when Hamburg was just getting a name it has never since lost for forgeries, and when the claims of any coloured bit of paper to be considered a stamp were not too closely examined. The statement that the Hamburg Boten were issued by a company of merchants for the prepayment of a charge for the delivery of letters within the city, was accepted with but slight hesitation.

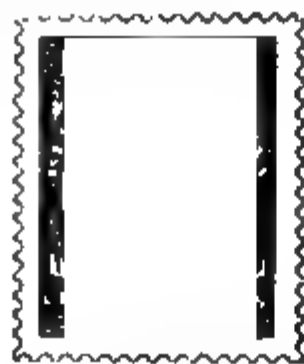
Immediately afterwards, spaces were found in the leading albums—Moens' and Lallier's—for the 116 varieties which had been so successfully foisted on the philatelic public. Since then—indeed, very soon after their recognition—it was discovered that they were worthless, and they might have been relegated to the limbo of spurious impressions, had they not been included in the albums above referred to. They have never since been expunged from them, but everyone knows that they are utterly valueless,—the Scheerenbecks, Hamers, Krantz, Lafrenzs, and Van Diemens;—and the one thing to be done by everyone who wishes to keep clear of "vermin" is to abstain from collecting them. Even those who have albums in which space is allotted for the Hamburg locals would do better to fill the pages with no matter what genuine stamps, rather than cover the spaces for mere regularity's sake with a set of gaudy and meaningless hum-bugs.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The most notable philatelic event of the month, in our estimation, is the appearance of the Newfoundland post card, which, as a veritable work of art, we think far superior to any of its brethren. A wood-engraving of the design would be very costly, and yet, from its nature, would fail in reproducing meritoriously those delicate details which lend such a charm to the whole; we must therefore beg our readers to be satisfied with a written description of the card. It is considerably under the average size, measuring hardly $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The border is unusually broad, and is filled with a link pattern of pleasing appearance; the corners are rounded off with a foliate ornament containing a kind of Maltese cross on shaded ground. Within the frame in the upper right corner is an impression from the die of the one-cent adhesive. The word NEWFOUNDLAND is inscribed in effective letters on an arched scroll which crosses the card. The initial letter of the word is in a tastefully designed shield from which depends an ornamental disk bearing the word TO in German

text. In a straight line below the name comes the inscription POST CARD on a straight and slightly embellished label, below which again is the usual legend:—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. The entire space within the frame is covered with a ground of very fine diagonal lines, which all spring from the lower left corner and widen out. Between these lines a still finer network pattern may be discerned. The entire design, groundwork included, is printed in a rich chrome-green, which on pure white card contributes not a little to heighten the effect. Less surprise may be felt at the possession of such a *chef-d'œuvre* by the Newfoundlanders when we add that it is the work of the American Bank Note Company, whose imprint appears in the lower margin. To render complete our notice of an emission of which we really cannot speak otherwise than enthusiastically, we have only to say that the back is entirely blank. The expected 3 c. adhesive blue, has made its *début* at the same time as the card. It is identical in design with the 3 c. red, and in colour with the 12½ c. Canadian.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Were it not for the appearance of the Newfoundland card, the



two new Argentine stamps which are here represented would have an unquestionable claim to be treated as the lions of the moment. The card comes from the American Bank Note Co.; the stamps are printed by its rival, the National Bank Note Co., and the latter form a worthy continuation of the series whose currency was inaugurated in 1867. From an official notice issued by the Argentine Postmaster General we learn that the effigy on the one cent stamp is that of Gen. Antonio Balcarce, and that on the four cent, Dr. Mariano Moreno. What claims these worthies may have on the national gratitude

we know not, but we trust that the obliging correspondent, whom we have to thank for communication of the specimens whence our engravings are copied, will favour us with some particulars of the lives of the two personages whose portraits will henceforth grace our albums.

The colour of the one cent is violet; of the four cents, brown. Their emission was authorised by the Postal Tariff Law of the 2nd September, 1872, and they came into use on the 15th March last. They are specially intended for the prepayment of prices-current and commercial circulars, for the prepayment of the extra fee for delivering prepaid letters at the recipient's house, and for the prepayment of correspondence for the United States under the terms of the postal law, which will shortly be in operation. They are printed in colour on white, and perforated like the other values.

BELGIUM.—Annexed is a representation of the design of the Belgian envelope stamp; and as the original has found favour in the eyes of that arch critic, M. Moens, who must be in a good position to judge of his countryman's production, we can do nothing but echo his opinion, and declare the type to be very good. Certainly the design is simple enough, and resembles in general appearance the Austrian series of 1861. As to its effect, that must necessarily depend on the execution, all we can now say being that it seems to be well proportioned. It is the work of the engraver of the current Portuguese series—Mr. C. Wiener—whose initials appear below the portrait. Rumour runs that it is to be struck in green on two inconvenient square sizes. The 1st of May was fixed for the emission, but it will be some time in fact before the supplies can be issued, as the envelopes which had been sent in to be stamped were rejected by the post-office, and were not replaced with sufficient promptitude to admit of the issue taking place at the original date. The Belgian public would, it seems, have been gratified if a similar measure had

been applied to the last supply of postal cards. Bitter complaints are made that the card is no better than blotting-paper, and no copying-ink has yet been found capable of transmitting a copy.

PERSIA.—Our Brighton contemporary states that he is enabled, on trustworthy authority, to confirm the existence of Persian stamps of the type of the 1867 essay, of which a few months since we reproduced an engraving. The impression is on thin white paper, but the stamps are *not* perforated. They were first issued in May, 1872. The sole values known to *The Philatelist's* correspondent are

1 schahi,	lilac,
2 „	green,
4 „	blue centre;

but he himself thinks he has not the whole set, and it will be remembered that a vermilion stamp was referred to at the commencement of the year. The schahi equals a half-penny. The stamps are for home use exclusively.

PERU.—The annexed rather novel design is that of a stamp issued for the service of the town of Lima, on the 1st of March of this year. It is struck in relief, and the stamps are printed on continuous bands of paper by means of the Lecocq machine, to which reference has more than once been made in these pages. The value of the new stamp is 2 centavos, and its colour ultramarine. It is stated that it has an horizontal *perçage*, by which we can only understand that it is perforated at the top and bottom, but (in consequence of the way in which it is printed) not at the sides.

TOLIMA.—(U. S. Colombia). The doubts expressed by the editor of *The Philatelist* as to the genuineness of the 20c. stamp introduced to notice by him, and illustrated in our last number, are echoed by *Le Timbre-Poste*. M. Moens aptly points out that the arms are not those of Colombia, and that whereas the shading of the shield on all genuine stamps is formed of horizontal lines, which in heraldry indicate that so much of the shield as they cover should be coloured blue, the shading on this new Tolima is composed of vertical

lines. The shield itself, when looked at from a little distance, bears a fantastic resemblance to a mask, and the creature above it is more bat than condor. Besides this, the stamp is perforated.

SPAIN.—That earnest advocate of postal progress in Spain—Don M. P. de Figueroa—has set the government a good example by getting up a post card of his own. The apology for the emission is found in the inscription which crosses the upper portion of the front, and reads thus:—

“POSTAL CARD, created in virtue of the regulations of the 10th May, 10th June, and 7th July, 1871, which authorises its circulation in Spain subject to the terms of the Tariff of the 15th September, 1872. As the Government shows an extreme reluctance to issue cards, Doctor Thebussem has had this one printed (May 1873) for his own use, and to please his friends. (On this side write only the address, and on the back the communication.—Circulates without band or cover.—It is good breeding to put the postage stamps in the upper right angle).”

We need hardly say that a gentleman who rightly advocates the practice of politeness even in the placing of a stamp has been careful to mark out the space in the upper right corner of the card, whereon the stamp ought to be stuck. The usual lines for the address, an exterior frame of a single line, and corner rosettes, complete this first forerunner of the government emission.*

In another part of the number will be found some interesting details, by Don Pardo de Figueroa, of a handstamp used at Bilbao.

At the last moment a report reaches us that a new series of stamps is to be issued on the 1st July, but our informant warns us against putting too much faith in the announcement.

BERMUDAS.—The new threepenny stamp, announced several months ago as “in the press,” has just been published, and we have received specimens by the last mail. The

* Since writing the above, we learn that the government has actually been shamed by “Dr Thebussem’s” action, into taking measures for the issue, at an early date, of official post cards. We cannot doubt but that the good work thus accomplished will earn for its author the gratitude, not only of philatelists, but also of the Spanish mercantile community.

stamp is printed a light orange-yellow—a somewhat ineffective tint. It is of similar design to its predecessors, though a change in appearance is produced by the enclosure of the circle containing the Queen's profile in a light octagonal frame, and the addition of ornamented triangles at each corner to complete the rectangle. The inscriptions fill the upper and lower margins, and, *par exception*, they are in colour on white. The watermark cc. and crown is maintained.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—We transfer *en bloc* to our pages the description of no less than four new types which our Belgian contemporary has been fortunate enough to receive.

Livni (Orel).—The Livni administration, apparently dissatisfied with its bobbin-label



stamp, has secured the services of an artist of an original turn of mind, who has produced the above grotesque and mystic combination. The scene in the upper half, it occurs to us, may be intended to represent the rising

of the Phoenix, according to the engraver's notion,—a sort of limo-kilo taking the place of the customary embers. We had better not guess any further, but simply wait patiently the coming of those oft-requested explanations which no one seems able to afford. The new and original Livni type is printed in colour on white. There are two varieties of the solitary value, viz., 5 kop. pale red, and 5 kop. bright red.

Werchnie Dnieproffsk (Ekaterinoslav).—M. Moens asserts that this stamp was issued



in 1866. Either he must be wrong, or all the statements which have been made as to the date of the institution of the local service must be incorrect. We are surprised he should content himself

with simply affirming that the stamp here represented was issued years before the government had sanctioned the emission of anything of the kind. It seems to us to be a very careless or a very oracular manner of doling out information. The inscription signifies *Rural post of Werch-*

nie Dnieproffsk, and it appears that in the orthography of the word "post" a serious mistake has been committed which quite changes the meaning of the word. The impression is in black on white laid paper. The design is set up from printer's types, and there are three varieties in the setting.

Wassyel (Nijni Novgorod).—This stamp was at first thought to be an envelope, but such is not the case. The design is struck in plain relief on bands of yellowish white gummed paper—seventeen impressions per band. The students of emblems will find another nut to crack in the cen-



tral device.

Perm (Perm).—The inconveniently large and unprepossessing type here represented has just been brought to light, and we presume is a new issue. The value is 3 *silver* kopecks. The impression is in black or grey on a yellowish white wove paper. The sheet is composed of fourteen stamps, eight placed vertically and six horizontally. The latter form as many varieties, but their distinguishing characteristics are by no means remarkable.

Sizran (Simbirsk).—This is the correct name of the district, which in our last number was referred to as Syrvan.

Bogorodsk (Moscow).—After all it appears that the man on horseback is intended to represent the victorious St. George; so, at any rate, asserts a Russian correspondent of M. Moens. The Czar Ivan III. (1462-1505) adopted the byzantine eagle, but the old emblem St. George was blazoned on the shield on the eagle's breast.

SWITZERLAND.—A gentleman writing from Lausanne favours us with some information which permits of our rectifying and completing the statements made in our April number with regard to the new wrapper and

post card stamp. The 2 c. band, unlike its predecessor, has not a rose edging above and below. Of the new type there are two bands—the 2 c. and 5 c.; the 5 c. post cards, of which we doubted the existence, are in use. The old 5 c. cards, brick-red and rose, of the same design as the envelopes, are entirely done away with. The 5 c. envelope impression in left upper corner, exists in a kind of pinkish brown, very distinct from the earlier shade.

SHANGHAI.—The employment of post cards has extended to distant Shanghai, and we should not be surprised to find the Japanese authorities taking them into favour. The Shanghai card is issued by the local post, and the only attempt at ornament which it shows is an external chain-pattern border. Near the upper margin is the inscription,

SHANGHAI LOCAL POST CARD,
ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS ONLY,

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

The middle line is wrongly translated by our Belgian contemporary, as "to be forwarded only by the writer." Will he permit us to tell him that the correct translation would be *délivrée aux abonnés seulement*; the double meaning of the word "subscriber" has misled him. At the back of the card is the legend NOTE FOR RECEIVER, under which is a line crossing the stamp, and below that the words Shanghai..... 187.... The impression is in mauve on white card. The value, unindicated, is one candareen.

FRENCH POST, JERUSALEM.—Such is the inscription on the stamp of which we annex an engraving in the hope of obtaining information respecting it. M. Moens, by whom it is introduced, knows nothing of it beyond the fact that it is printed in blue on white, and that the specimen whence our engraving was copied shows a portion of an obliteration composed of black dots disposed in the form of a lozenge, the remainder of the obliteration having fallen on the envelope. The stamp, he adds, has not a suspicious look about it; nevertheless, we much doubt its being used for the prepayment of correspondence.

PHILIPPINES.—We are still but imperfectly acquainted with the values of the current series. The list given by us on page 199 of our last November number was supposed to be a complete one, but we now learn that another denomination was issued, namely,

12c. de peseta, carmine-rose (pale and bright.) The colour of this stamp has just been changed, and it is now issued in blue, so that there are at present two blue stamps, assuming the 16 c. to be still in circulation. The 62 c., originally issued in lilac, has taken unto itself the colour abandoned by the 12 c., and makes its appearance in carmine-rose.

NEW ZEALAND.—In completion of the information given last month, we should state that the new halfpenny stamp was issued on the 1st of January of this year, for the purpose of prepaying newspapers through the post in New Zealand only, the rate having been reduced on that date from a penny. New Zealand, it may be as well to remark, has acquired the honour of being the first of our South Sea colonies to follow the example of the mother country in the matter of newspaper rates.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that as the 2½ groschen and 9 krenzer adhesives may be easily confounded by gaslight with other values of the series, they are to be distinguished by a surcharged longitudinal inscription of the value, in brown letters. In future the 1 gr. and 3 kr. envelope stamps will be struck without any transverse inscription.

DECCAN.—The latest arrivals show some variations in shade from the previously known stamps; thus the 1 anna is of a pale greyish-brown; the 2 anna, pale green; the 3 anna, yellowish-bistre; and the 12 anna, pale blue.

FIJI ISLANDS.—Lieut. Gibbons writes us that he has seen the proof of a new issue for these islands, and promises further particulars by next mail.

BARBADOS.—The sixpence vermilion watermarked with a large star has been received by a recent mail.

AZORES.—The 120 reis blue of the new type has been issued.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The 30 c. is now printed reddish lilac.

THE STAMPS OF LA GUAIRA.

BY THE REV. R. D. KARRÉ.

(Second Article.)

THOSE of our readers who subscribed to *The Philatelic Journal*, no doubt noticed that my articles upon the Guaira Stamps had been reprinted last month from that magazine without alteration. This arose from the fact that our publishers forwarded me the proof to a wrong address, so that I was unable to make the necessary alterations in time for the May number. I am, therefore, under the necessity of writing a second article in order to correct the first.* I stated that the British packet-agents at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello distribute the British letters. Mr. Meyer, however, says that the agents forward the letters to the native postal officials, who distribute the letters themselves, thereby freeing our agents from any further responsibility. This, I believe, is correct.

With regard to the issue of 1864, the first impressions from Die II. are well perforated; but, when we leave the obliquely perforated stamps, and come to examine those with the pointed perforation, we notice at once that the die is getting much worn. For instance, during the pointed-perforation period, the q in *PAQUETE* gradually loses its tail, and in the latest copies it is, to all appearance, a simple o.

PERFORATION.—I was at first tempted to believe that the circular perforation was the latest; but I fancy it is now generally thought that the different dies and perforations come in the order in which I have placed them.

PAPER.—The description of the paper on which these stamps are printed is not quite correct; it should have been as follows:—

Die I.—Hard wove paper, varying from yellowish to almost white. The darkest shade is found, I believe, on the stamps earliest printed.

Die II.—The paper used for the earliest

* The first article, originally published in *The Philatelic Journal*, called forth a critique upon it, which soon afterwards appeared in the same journal, containing one or two corrections, suggestions, and additions, of which I have now availed myself.

stamps of this die (especially those with oblique perforation) is of a slightly bluish tinge. It is wove, like that of Die I., but much softer in texture. The later impressions are, however, more like Die I. in tint.

To my reference list of Die I. may be added a *medio real*, vermilion-red. This is the only additional variety with which I have met since the original list appeared.

The lists themselves are, very possibly, far from being complete, but I have described all the stamps which I have seen; and my object in writing these articles will be gained if the information contained in them be of any real use to my fellow-philatelists.

THE STAMPS OF REUNION ISLE,—

ORIGINAL, REPRINTED, AND FORGED.

BY WARDEN.

HAVING recently been shown a pair of the coarsest "bogus" sold by a dealer of some

repute for
£8 as veritable Simon
Pures, it has
occurred to
us that a few
remarks on
the above

subject may be useful. On looking through the back volumes of this magazine we find it is a long time since any notice has been taken of the stamps, and accordingly hope even the little we have to say may not be unwelcome to our readers.

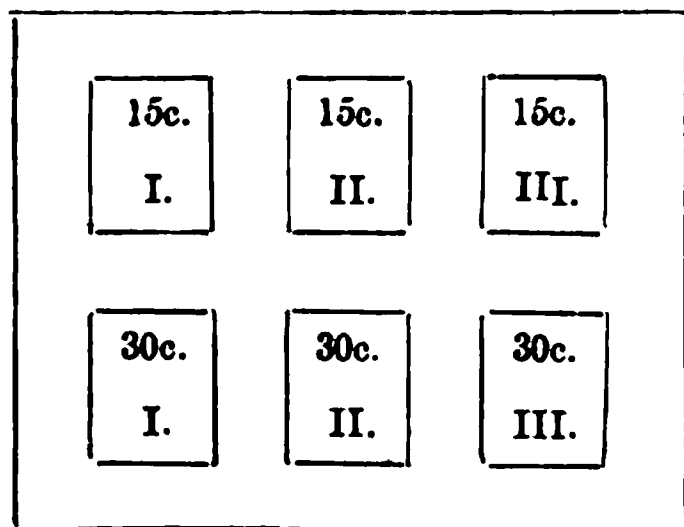
In vol. iv., p. 190, is the following extract from *Le Timbre-Poste*:—

The creation of these stamps was authorised by a decree of the governor of the island, M. Doret, dated the 10th of December, 1851. The stamps were composed of typographical designs, and each sheet contained six impressions. Only one supply was ever printed, and that consisted of 7500 stamps of each value. Their circulation commenced on the 1st of January, 1852, and ceased on the 1st of January, 1860. No special postmark for their obliteration ever existed, and the few known specimens are cancelled by a stroke of the pen.

In support of the above statements we have no proof to offer; nor, on the other hand, any objections to urge against them. On one point only have we any remark to make. "Each sheet contained six impressions;" query, six 15 c. in a 15 c. sheet, and

six 30 c. in a 30 c. sheet, or three of each in a sheet compounded of the two values? The reprints, it is well known, show three varieties of each value; and as they are said to have been "composed" from the old types, by the setter-up of the originals, it has been pretty generally accepted that only three varieties of each value were issued by the post-office. Still of this we are not quite sure, as from the great rarity of the stamps, it has never been possible to get together any but a very small number for the sake of comparison. If even a dozen of each value could be collected, and it were found that only three varieties were among them, though the probability would be fairly strong in favour of the received opinion, it would not be absolutely conclusive. When, therefore, we say that our utmost efforts have only discovered five 15 c. and four 30 c., stamps, it will at once be manifest, that, in speaking of only three varieties of each value, we are not resting on any very solid ground. Perhaps these lines may meet the eye of some collector more fortunate than ourselves, who may be able to furnish evidence which will settle this point. Meanwhile, this much may be said in favour of three varieties only: that after close examination of all the originals available, we have failed to detect in the reprints any "type" not found in the actual stamps. This is a coincidence which could hardly have occurred, had the elemental parts of more originals been open to the use of the composer of the reprints.

We now proceed to compare the stamps with the reprints, so as to furnish *criteria* by which they may be distinguished.



This diagram shows the arrangement of the reprinted sheet; and, in default of proof

to the contrary, we accept it as a true representation of the original, and, whether correct or not, it will be useful for reference in the course of these notes.

PAPER.

(i.) *Originals*: thin; pale clear blue; slightly surfaced; soft fibre; "wove" marks very small; made from fine pulp. This paper seems to have been "pressed."

(ii.) *Reprint No. 1*: slightly thicker; pale dull blue; unsurfaced; rather softer fibre; "wove" marks larger; made from not very fine pulp; unpressed.

(iii.) *Reprint No. 2, &c.*: not thin; rather deep dull blue; unsurfaced; and in other points as last.

IMPRESSION.

(i.) *Originals*: clear and strong; no *foulage*.

(ii.) *Reprint No. 1*: clear but weak; no *foulage*.

(iii.) *Reprint No. 2, &c.*: very coarse, and worn in many of the latest copies, and in all showing considerable deterioration in the "types;" very marked *foulage*.

It is suggested to us that the *foulage* points to the later reprints having been struck on undamped paper.

SIZES OF STAMPS.

15 c. (i.) *Originals*: $\frac{4}{16}$ inch \times $\frac{2}{3}$ inch.

(ii.) *Reprints*: $\frac{7}{8}$ inch \times $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

30 c. (i.) *Originals*: $\frac{7}{8}$ inch \times $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

(ii.) *Reprints*: $\frac{7}{8}$ inch \times $\frac{2}{3}$ inch.

DESIGN.

The complex central devices of each value being made up of ornamental "types," such as are commonly found in printing-offices, present in the reprints several small points of difference from the originals. It was at first our intention to enumerate these exhaustively, but, on discovering that the later reprints varied (from wear and inferior printing) in not a few minor details from the first reprints, we found, that to make the analysis of any use, it would be necessary to dissect the several editions of the said reprints. This would be a tedious process, and so we shall confine our attention to the frames. The variations of these, together with the

differences already mentioned, will enable anyone readily to pronounce on any specimen submitted for judgment.

In all 15 c. (originals), outer frame of two thick lines close together.

15 c. (reprints), outer frame of single thick line.

In all 30 c. (originals), outer frame of two lines, but, from their being placed *very* close together, and being less thick than in the (original) 15 c., it has a lighter appearance, and its double nature is less evident.

30 c. (reprints), outer frame of single thick line.

Besides these signal differences in the outer frames of originals and reprints, there are also minor differences; for instance, to take 15 c., variety I.; on comparing the angles, we observe that in the *original* stamp the upper right angle is imperfectly formed, owing to the *outer* lateral line meeting the *inner* top line; whereas in the *reprint* the lines are placed correctly, so as to meet if prolonged, which, however, they fail to do by a considerable interval. Again, if we compare 30 c., variety I., with its reprint, we find that, whereas it has all its corners closed, except the right-hand lower one, the latter has its upper left-hand angle distinctly open.

VARIETIES OF EACH VALUE.

As we have failed to obtain original copies of each of the six varieties, our remarks under this head are made from the reprinted sheet. The three of 15 c. may be distinguished by the shading of the bottom right-hand "pearl."

- I. has it shaded above.
- II. " " " at right.
- III. " " " below.

To distinguish between the varieties of the 30 c. is less easy, as the differences are not so marked. Referring to the illustration at the commencement of this article, it will be observed that there is a circle at each corner of the central device. Calling the left-hand top one (a.), and going round the stamp from left to right (b.), (c.), (d.), we have—using the notation of the mariners' compass:—

30 c., I. (a.) Broken on S.E.; flattened above and at left.

(b.) Broken on N.; flattened at right.

(c.) Unbroken; flattened at right.

(d.) Unbroken; flattened below.

II. (a.) Left side wanting.

(b.) Broken W.N.W.; flattened above.

(c.) Right side wanting.

(d.) Broken S.W., S.S.E., S.E.; flattened at left.

III. (a.) Left side wanting; broken S.S.W., S.S.E.; flattened above.

(b.) Broken on E.

(c.) Broken on E.

(d.) Broken on S. and W.

FORGERIES.

Of these, at one time, there was an abundant brood, and the race, though somewhat diminished, is not yet extinct. In vol. v., p. 177, a set of seven values is mentioned; but as only the 15 c. coincides in denomination with an original, that alone need be noticed. It reads JSLE, and is thereby enough condemned, apart from its *square* shape. In vol. vi., p. 7, a pair of forgeries (in addition to above) are pilloried, though so vaguely, that we cannot identify them with any in our possession. Turning to our own "bogus" sets, we find the following tests amply sufficient.

Originals and reprints of both values show the breaks incidental to designs composed of ornamental type, and also show no points of contact between device and frame.

Forgeries are either woodcuts or lithographs, and, therefore, show none of the breaks just mentioned. In all cases, too, the device is made to touch the inner frame at sides. The "£8 pair" already mentioned are "postmarked," and so, for the most part, are the trash sold by the Hull rogues, and their Glasgow brethren, whereas no specimen of the real thing has yet been found cancelled, otherwise than by penstrokes.

CAUTION TO TYROS.

Have nothing to do with "Réunion stamps," unless clearly satisfied, by reference to some competent authority, that what you are offered is that which it professes to be. Originals are so *very* rare, that you may as well make up your minds you will never be

able to obtain them. Reprints of any but the latest editions are hard to get, and even these latest are not so cheap as to make it worth a beginner's while to purchase them. Should copies of reprint No. 1 come in your way, our advice is, buy them, as they are decent representations of the "unattainables," and always likely to be worth their present price of 12/- to 15/- the pair. With forgeries and fac-similes have as little to do as possible. Two vacant compartments in your albums will be no disfigurement—rather an ornament, as contrasted with squares filled up with "bogus"—and you will have the negative satisfaction, at least, of giving no custom to the knaves.

[The writer begs to return his sincere thanks to those English and foreign collectors who have so liberally helped him by the loan of their specimens, and by their advice.]

A SEMI-OFFICIAL SPANISH STAMP.

BY DON MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

On the 8th of March last the Council of Commerce of Viscaya published the following notice:—

"Owing to the insecurity of road and rail, occasioned by the war with Don Carlos VII., the railway company of Tudela, with the approval of the civil governor, has engaged a steam-boat to carry the postal correspondence from Bilbao to the port of Castro-Urdiales, and all letters and packets so carried will pay a surcharge of 25 centimos de real."

The above surcharge, equalling only a halfpenny, having been found insufficient to cover the expenses, it has been increased by the Council of Commerce to 10 centimos de peseta (one penny). Only letters on which the extra charge has been prepaid are sent by boat. The Council of Commerce lacks either the power or the will to make the charge payable at destination, and consequently all letters on which the sea carriage has not been prepaid are forwarded by the usual land route, and no sooner do they leave Bilbao than they fall into the hands of the Carlists.

Letters which are to be forwarded by the steamer must be delivered at a public office, of whose whereabouts due notice has been given, and there the extra rate of 10 centimos de peseta must be paid in cash. All such



letters must bear the usual postage stamp to cover the ordinary rate. On being delivered at the receiving-office they are stamped with a blue or black handstamp inscribed, like annexed fac-simile, *Por vapor*, which signifies "per steamer." The result of these arrangements is, that only letters posted in the town of Bilbao bear the new and necessary pass-word. The port of Castro-Urdiales is only about 25 kilometres from Bilbao, and between that port and the capital communications are open.

A SERIES OF OFFICIAL STAMPS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

BY JOSEPH J. CASEY, A.M.

DURING its last session Congress abolished the franking privilege, to take effect July 1st, 1873. After this date Congress men will no longer have the inestimable privilege of sending home free their trunks and furniture, law-books and inkstands, undelivered speeches and published documents, but will have to do as other individuals in the matter of paying postage; they will then have more time to attend to the public business, and less to spare in finding out the maximum capacity and strength of the mail-bags.

As a consequence of the abolition of this franking privilege, it was presumed that the government, throughout all the departments, would revert to the use of the government postage stamps, and that the post-office would thereby increase its revenue by over two millions and a half of dollars, this being the amount necessary to keep the franking privilege up to the mark. But since Congress appropriated \$2,000,000 for postage for the departments, and since new postage stamps have been prepared for the exclusive use of these departments, I presume that the

franking privilege has changed merely its name.

I said new postage stamps were to be used by the departments. The following is a description of them.*

The medallions on the present stamps are to be used on the stamps for the departments, but each one is to be in a different colour and design. That for the War Department has, beneath the medallion in the lower corners, a shield; and in the upper corners the letters U. S., with WAR DEPARTMENT across the top, and the denomination across the bottom of the stamp.

The Navy Department has a cable, extending around the stamp, outside of the medallion, with NAVY DEPARTMENT and two stars in the upper corners, the denomination written across the bottom, and the letters U. S. in the lower corners.

The Treasury stamp has folds of drapery, with heavy cords and tassels depending, on the sides of the medallion. TREASURY across the top, and the denomination across the bottom, and the letters U. S. in the corners, under the word "Treasury."

Stamps for the White House have EXECUTIVE written across the top in large letters, and U. S. in the upper corners; plain sides, and denomination across the bottom.

The Interior stamps are the handsomest of the series. The name of the department is

* [Our best thanks are due to Mr. W. K. Freeman, for communication of an extract from the *New York Evening Telegram* of 1st ult., giving precisely the same details, both contributors having evidently obtained the information, which they have so obligingly sent, from the same source. As in these descriptions there is one point which does not come out very clearly, we may take the opportunity of saying that we understand that the medallions are all printed in the colours used for the stamps employed by the public, and that the specially-engraved framework is printed for all the values in the one particular colour chosen for each department. Thus the colour for the War Department being carmine, we shall find the following varieties:—

- 1 cent, centre blue, frame carmine.
- 2 " " brown, " carmine.
- 3 " " green, " carmine.

and so on. The only difficulty is in respect of stamps of which the colour of the centre happens to be the same as that chosen for the framework, as for instance, in the case of the War Department, with the 90 c. Here, if the rule be carried through, we shall find a carmine centre and a carmine frame, and the same hitch must occur in respect of one value or another in all the intended series.—ED.]

written across the top, extending from side to side, with stars in the upper corners, and pillars on the sides, running from the top, and terminating with the letters U. S. set in relief.

The State Department stamp is very plain. The name of the department across the top, plain sides, with large letters, U. S., at the lower corners, and denomination across the bottom.

The Department of Justice has a plain and severe looking stamp, with plain sides and corners; DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE written across the top, and the letters U. S. in large type set in stars at the lower sides.

The Post-office Department stamp, instead of the medallion, will have the denomination in large figures, and full relief in white, on a black ground. The border of this stamp is of exquisite workmanship, and is composed of a delicate wreath of leaves entwined around the medallion; the letters U. S. are in the lower corners, and two balls in the upper corners. The reason for making the post-office stamp different from the others is, that the Post-office Department has to distribute these stamps to 30,000 postmasters throughout the country for official use, and it will occasion less confusion, and less opportunity for careless, ignorant, and dishonest postmasters to disarrange the system by having a distinctive stamp for their own use.

Each department has a different colour, so that there will be no occasion for the correspondence to get mixed. The colour for the War Department is carmine; the Navy, blue; the Interior, vermilion; State, green; Treasury, velvet-brown; Post-office, black; Agricultural, straw colour; Department of Justice, royal purple; Executive, chocolate.

It was at first proposed to give to each department a different and emblematic design, without regard to colour; but upon consultation, it was decided to make the colour distinctive, leaving the general design the same for all. The shades used by the departments will be entirely different from those in general use, so that a glance will determine the difference. The selections of colours have nearly all been made, and the designs chosen.

There is in course of preparation a design for a special stamp, to be used by the State Department, to cover matter sent in despatch bags to foreign countries. This is to be done in two colours, with a medallion of William H. Seward (Secretary of State under Lincoln), engraved from the portrait of him in Carpenter's painting of the signing of the emancipation proclamation.

In conclusion, although having other matters to write about in this connection, let me state that these stamps are to be forwarded directly to the several departments by the Bank Note Company, in requisitions from the post-office at Washington, and that in no case are they to be delivered to the public, or sold to any person.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

ADVERTISING ON FRENCH POST CARDS.—A Paris advertising agent, as well as several *maisons de nouveautés* of the Boulevards, has made a contract with the Postmaster General for printing advertisements between the margin and the edge of the new post card. For such permission the contractors undertake to pay the post-office five centimes per card.

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.—In answer to a circular letter from the Director of Posts, Berlin, Germany, Postmaster-General Cresswell replies, that the number of women employed in the postal service of the United States, is about 700, and they discharge the duties of their respective positions to the general acceptance of the department.—*The Curiosity Hunter*.

THE THURN AND TAXIS STAMPS.—Mr. O. Taylor remarks that no remainders are procurable of the stamps in question. This is accounted for by the fact that the Prussians (owing, we understand, to a peculiar grudge against the Prince of Thurn and Taxis, on account of his Austrian proclivities and connections) burnt or otherwise destroyed all the stamps and apparatus found in any of the offices of which they took possession.—*The Philatelist*.

A SELECT LETTER SERVICE—According to the *Italie*, the Empress of Russia, while in Italy, does not correspond with the Emperor by the post-office. A service of couriers has been established between Sorrento and St. Petersburg, composed of eighteen persons, who are continually *en route* between the two places. Every time the Empress writes, as she does nearly every day, a courier starts with the packet, which he is instructed to deliver into the hands of the Czar himself.

A PIGEON EXPRESS FOR NEWSPAPERS.—*The Ceylon Observer* has been attempting to run a "pigeon express" between Galle and Colombo, and would very likely have succeeded, had not a blood-thirsty civet-cat wriggled herself between the narrow bars (1½ in. apart) of the dovecot, and killed five of the finest pigeons in training; in every case it had cut the jugular vein and sucked the blood. *The Observer* hopes, however, that ere many weeks other pigeons, now in training, will be regularly bringing from

Galle to Colombo, the budgets of news, written and printed on thin paper for the special purpose.

HOW AMERICANS USE UP POSTAGE STAMPS.—The following will convey some idea of the immense number of postage stamps used in the United States. In the space of three months, the National Bank Note Company have made over 143,000,000 of all denominations, valued at over 4,000,000 dollars. During the past year 520,000,000 have been completed in a week, and 13,000,000 in a single day. Three times as many three cent stamps as of all other denominations combined. After them comes the one cent, and then the two and six cent.—The last weekly return of the company showed a manufacture of over 14,000,000 of finished stamps.—*American Newspaper Reporter*.

FISH BY POST.—To send live fish in a letter by post from Naples to London would seem at first sight an incredible and impossible feat, and yet it has been done. Five little sea fish, measuring each about two inches long, wrapped up in damp sea-weed (*varach*) were forwarded, says the *Correspondance Anglaise*, on the 4th January, from Naples to London, as a registered packet, addressed to the Crystal Palace Aquarium. The little parcel weighed seven ounces. It reached its destination on the morning of the 9th. When unpacked the fish were found to be rather exhausted, but when they were placed in a vessel filled with sea-water, four out of the five regained their senses, and at present swim fearlessly about in their new domain. The travellers belong to the genus *amphicous*, which figure in almost the lowest rank of the vertebrated order.—*Moniteur Officiel*.

POSTAL JOKES.—Years ago, when the cost of postage was much greater than at present, jokes were sometimes played off, the fun of which was to make a man pay heavy postage for very unnecessary information. When Collins, the artist, was once with some friends around him, one of them resisted every attempt to induce him to stay to supper. He withdrew, and the friends in council over the banquet resolved that the sulky guest should be punished. Accordingly, on the following day Collins sent him a folded sheet of foolscap, on which was written, "After you left we had stout and oysters." The receiver understood what was meant, but he was equally resolved to have his revenge. Accordingly, biding his time, he transmitted, in a feigned hand, a letter to Collins, in which the painter read only, "Had you?" There-with the joke seemed at an end; but Collins would have the last word. He waited and waited till the matter was almost forgotten, and then the writer of the last query opened a letter one morning in which he had the satisfaction of finding an answer to it in the words, "Yes, we had."—*Family Herald*.

CLEVER DETECTION OF A POST-OFFICE THIEF.—As is well-known, Boston is a sort of postal head-quarters for New England, and a very large proportion of the mails from the South and West, intended for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, pass through that office, so that, aside from the day force, some twenty clerks are employed in distributing and forwarding the mails during the night. Between November and March last, Messrs. Hunter and Co., publishers at Hinsdale, N. H., were daily annoyed by, and suffered great losses from, the failure of valuable letters to reach their address. The losses were duly reported to the post-office department, and agents were put on the watch. Still, the losses continued; letters from California, Africa, the Sandwich Islands, and from almost every state, from Springfield, Boston, and from all points from which they had to pass through Boston, started but never reached their destination. These losses were almost entirely confined to the letters ad-

dressed to the firm named, of which nearly a thousand often passed through Boston in a single night; and although the losses daily increased—including not only letters with coin, but also those containing money-orders, drafts, checks, &c.—no clue could be obtained to the thief. One day, about the middle of February, Hunter and Co., in assorting their afternoon letters from Boston, discovered a large number of letters from various states, each of which was smoked on the back of the envelope, and when, upon opening the entire lot, they were found to contain nothing valuable, the conclusion was instantly arrived at, that someone had been using a light, and, by holding the letter over it, could easily see what letters contained money, and those that did not were allowed to proceed, while the others were stolen.

This clue was at once made use of, and the special agent at Boston for two weeks watched the employés vigilantly. On the first of March a night-watch was established, which soon succeeded in catching the thief in the act, the result of which was the arrest, on the 22nd, of Frederick W. Cooper, a night clerk at the distributing department. Cooper, who had been employed since November last in making up the mails which left Boston early in the morning, had, contrary to rules, been in the habit of reporting for duty before the designated time—11.30 p.m.—sometimes coming by half-past ten. This gave him the whole field to himself, and his method was to take a package, hold each letter over the gas-light, and steal all letters containing money, checks, &c. The rest, with, however, the tell-tale smoke-mark on them, were sent forward. Just after Cooper was detected, he left the office, and two weeks later he returned and tendered his resignation to Postmaster Burt, saying that he "could not stay any longer." Mr. Burt replied that he probably would stay longer than he wished, and at once arrested him. He denied the theft *in toto*, and referred the officer to his recommendations, but upon being taken before the special agent and cross-questioned, he broke down and confessed. An examination followed, and in default of bail he was committed.

Cooper's statement of the amount stolen bears no comparison to the amount missing, which is known to be at least \$4000 in cash, besides an immense number of money, orders, drafts, checks, &c., all of which he had destroyed. He appears very penitent, which is, however, very characteristic of post-office robbers in general. Thus, after four months of steady depredations, and after causing great loss, annoyance, and delay to thousands who had sent money in various sums, the thief is caged and pretty sure to get his deserts.—*The Springfield Union*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A HOME-MADE PERMANENT ALBUM.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Having been engaged for some time past in the manufacture of an album for my collection of postage stamps, I venture to send you the following account of my method of so doing, in hope that it may prove interesting and perhaps instructive to such of your readers as may contemplate the performance of a similar task, premising that I do not wish to claim any great amount of originality for my design, having picked up many hints from letters and papers in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*; but, having done all that I am about to describe, I may be able to give some details of the manufacture, which could hardly be given by one who had not tried it.

The main object of my method of construction is the

attainment of permanence, by means of separate pages, fastened together in such a manner as to allow of the book being at any time taken to pieces for the insertion of fresh pages, in their proper places, or for entire rearrangement. My book is fastened together by strings passed through holes, half an inch from the inner edge of each page, which holes are prevented from splitting or enlarging in any way by being protected by brass eyelets, the paper being further strengthened, as will be seen presently, by the linen hinge, which acts as a kind of backing.

The construction which I am about to describe can, of course, be adapted to pages of any size; but I will give the dimensions which I have used myself. The material I have employed is a very thin cardboard, somewhat thicker than the thickest drawing paper, and smoother on one side than on the other. I find the smooth side the best to rule lines upon, and it is, I believe, the right side of the paper, though the appearance of the other is equally pleasing. This cardboard is sold in sheets, twenty-two inches by thirty, price threepence each. It makes the book very thick; but it is more durable than any paper would be, is less liable to wrinkle, and is quite capable of carrying whole envelopes and post cards without danger of tearing.

I make the pages in two parts, which I will term, respectively, the *leaf* and the *hinge-piece*. The former measures eleven inches by eight inches, and the latter one inch by eight inches; the whole page being, therefore, an oblong of twelve inches by eight inches. I cut six leaves out of each sheet by dividing it longitudinally down the centre, and then cutting three pieces, each eight inches wide, out of each half; this leaves two pieces eleven inches long and six inches wide, out of which the hinge-piece can be cut.

The two parts are joined together by a piece of tape rather more than an inch-and-a-quarter broad; this is pasted on so as to cover the whole of the hinge-piece, leaving about a quarter-of-an-inch of the tape on which to paste the edge of the leaf, between which and the hinge-piece I leave a space of about one-sixteenth of an inch, which allows the leaf to turn freely on the hinge thus formed; I find that the leaf is held quite securely by a quarter-of-an-inch of the breadth of the tape, and the hinge-piece is much strengthened by being completely backed by it.

Round the leaf I rule a line, leaving a margin three-quarters of an inch wide at the top, bottom, and outer side, and one-quarter of an inch at the inner side—that next the hinge; thus forming a space of ten inches by six-and-a-half available for the stamps.

Should you think that it would be of any interest to your readers, I will proceed in the next number to describe my method of arrangement, in its general principles, and in its application to the different countries and their various issues; in the meantime I remain,

Yours very truly,

Norwich.

CHETH.

[We shall have pleasure in inserting our correspondent's promised second letter.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. M.—You will find the French 10 c. brown on pink referred to in our February number. On page 123 of the last volume is an engraving of the current German type, with enlarged eagle; and further reference is made to the issue on page 186 of the same volume. We are, nevertheless, obliged to you for writing us on the subject.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE following article is principally based on information obligingly communicated by the St. Petersburg correspondent to this magazine, supplemented by details drawn from the French *Journal Officiel* and other papers. Its composition has been retarded, in the expectation that further intelligence would come to hand. Of its incomplete character the writer is fully aware, nor would he have ventured on publishing it, but for the hope he entertains, that it may act as a pioneer to worthier attempts to elucidate an interesting subject.

The Russian local stamps, although they have taken a recognised rank among postal emissions, are but little understood. A certain amount of incredulity respecting their *bonâ-fide* nature is not inexcusable on the part of collectors, seeing how many well-puffed shams have, of late years, acquired an undeserved notoriety; and the disposition to look askance at them has been strengthened by the assertions of well-meaning persons who have made a few weeks' stay in Russia, to the effect that the local stamps are unknown to the postal officials. But the chief obstacle to an unhesitating acceptance of these stamps, is the vagueness of our knowledge of the circumstances under which they have sprung into existence, and the exact purposes they serve. The possession of an acquaintance with these essential facts suffices to do away with all vestige of suspicion, and gives to these quaint emissions an interest they would not otherwise inspire.

Properly to understand the Russian locals, we must take a glance at the internal economy of the empire, starting from the great event of 1861—the liberation of the serfs. This was accompanied by important edicts, regulating the administration of the rural districts. It was requisite to provide the freed men with a system of civil government which should educate them up to the improved position they were thenceforth to occupy. Previously existing institutions were therefore remodelled, and their benefits extended.

Elective assemblies became the order of the day. The Russian communes themselves had, in their humble way, been accustomed for ages to regulate their internal affairs by means of a council composed of the heads of families of the village, elected in the proportion of one to every five hearths. The repartition of the taxes, the administration of justice, the division of the communal lands, all these duties were performed by the assembly of elders, which met on Sundays, in summer in the open air, in winter at the house of the most wealthy member. The powers of these village parliaments were confirmed in 1861, and at the same time, for judicial and other purposes, the villages were grouped together into *volosths*, or cantons, with a central council, presided over by a chief elected among the peasants, who, during its recesses, is assisted by a kind of committee or delegation, consisting of the heads of the villages forming the *volosth*.

An important advance in the development of the system of government by representation, which was thus initiated in the village administration, took place on the 1st of January, 1864. Provincial and district representative assemblies were then established in thirty-two * out of the seventy-six governments into which the major part of Russia is divided, and also in the territory of Bessarabia. The following are the names of the thirty-two governments, and as they have a connection with the issue of local stamps, it is as well to bear them in mind.

Charkoff	Orel	Taurida
Cherson	Penza	Tambow
Ekaterinoslav	Perm	Toula
Kaluga	Petersburg	Tver
Kazan	Poltawa	Tschernigow
Kostroma	Pskoff	Yaroslaf
Koursk	Riasan	Wologda
Moscow	Samara	Woronej
Nijni Novgorod	Saratow	Wjatka
Novgorod	Simbirsk	Wladimir.
Olonetz	Smolensk	

With the provincial assemblies, which are the more important of the two, we have but little to do. They deal, as their name imports,

* The French *Journal Officiel* says thirty-three, but I prefer to accept the number fixed by the St. Petersburg correspondent, as it is accompanied with a list of the names of the governments, and is, moreover, officially guaranteed.

with the affairs of the entire province or government. Their annual sessions, which are of twenty days' duration, are held in the chief town of the government, and during their vacations, a permanent committee execute their decisions. Our business is more especially with the District Land Assemblies, which are composed (like the provincial assemblies) of delegates in equal proportions, of the landed proprietors, inhabitants of cities, and peasants within the district. The districts, it should be observed, are the leading sub-divisions of the governments. Some notion of their extent and relative importance may be formed from the fact, that in the whole of European Russia there are but 185 of them.

To resume: the district assemblies meet once a year for ten days. They are quite independent of each other, but are all equally subordinate to the provincial assemblies. Following the system adopted by the latter, the district assembly elects a committee consisting of a president and not more than three assessors, to administer the district affairs during the vacations. This committee is renewed at the end of every third year. It holds its sittings in the chief town of the district, where the president must have his residence. It is called the *Zemskaya Uprava*, or land court, and it is by this court or board that the public business is really transacted. The local postage service, wherever established, is under its control, and how it is worked we shall presently see.

The exact period when the first Russian local posts were established is not known. In fact, it is in respect of the date and circumstances of their establishment that the greatest difficulty occurs; for whilst on the one hand the imperial decree authorising the creation of such posts is dated the 5th September, 1870, on the other hand we find ourselves confronted with the emissions of Bogorodsk and Borowitz, which were noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in the middle of 1869; and it is asserted that other locals have been in existence since even an earlier date. The missing link in the chain of evidence is the source of the authorisation in virtue of which these first locals appeared. Unfortunately we do not possess means of

tracing it, and there are but few data to help us in our search. We know indeed from *The St. Petersburg Gazette* (See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. viii., p. 171) that when the local boards were first established their official correspondence was carried free, though whether by the post-office or otherwise is not stated, and that the ultimate withdrawal of that privilege led to a resolution by the land assembly of the Voronej government, in December, 1869, to establish a local post. We further learn that the resolution was disapproved of by the Voronej government, and annulled by the senate in August, 1870, on the ground "of its not being in accordance, in the first place, with the 1114th clause of the code, which directly prohibits the opening of any private establishment over and above the post-office department, for the carriage of letters; and, in the second place, with the imperial statute of 1st May, 1870, regarding the manner of conveying the correspondence of local courts." Now, it may well have been that similar action on the part of the land assemblies in other provinces may not have met with a rebuke from the governors of such provinces, but, on the contrary, may have been approved of by them. This is the most plausible explanation of the issue of the Bogorodsk and other stamps in 1868-69. They were in some sense irregularly issued, for though they must have had the sanction of the provincial authorities, their emission, as has been seen above, was contrary to the established law. The case of the Voronej land assembly was probably a typical one. Its resolutions were blamed for form's sake by the senate, whose observations really applied to the action of other provinces besides Voronej; but in less than a month afterwards the local service was regularly authorised. The matter must have been under the consideration of the government for some time previously, for the decree reproduced below shows a practical acquaintance with the particularities of the local service and its requirements which could not have been evoked out of a mere theoretical study.

Moreover, it must be borne in mind that if the local posts were, as it would seem, at first informally established in certain districts, the land assemblies, which thus took

the initiative in the creation of the service, were acting in the interests of their constituents, and the assemblies themselves being new institutions, which required to be developed, and not snubbed, it is possible that the governors, and perhaps the head administration, may have winked at the irregularity of the proceedings in consideration of the good really effected. However this may be, the writer feels convinced that the decree hereunder given, in spite of its necessarily stiff phraseology, should be looked on as intended not only to authorise the creation of local posts, but legally to confirm, and perhaps extend, the privileges of those already in existence. We find in the emission of local stamps prior to the date of the decree an apparent contradiction; but facts are facts, and a single good one is worth a dozen conjectures. We know that the stamps in question are authentic, and we know that the decree is authentic; the only conclusion we can draw is the one already indicated, namely, that the issue of the stamps was sanctioned by some authorities of whose acts we have no knowledge at present. Admitting the existence of these stamps, we, nevertheless, found their legality and their history—equally with that of subsequently issued series—on the decree, to which we now proceed.

St. Petersburg, 5-17 September, 1870.

Seeing that the means at the disposal of the postal department are insufficient to ensure the transmission of the private correspondence of all the inhabitants of the empire, more especially of those who reside in localities which, from their geographical position, are almost entirely deprived of postal communication, or which happen to be at a great distance from the offices established by the post; with a view to facilitate to the inhabitants of those countries the possibility of exchanging their correspondence in the most convenient, and, above all, in the least costly manner, and in virtue of the laws of the Senate, dated the 27th August, of this year, I authorise the establishment of a special local post in the localities in which it may be needed, on the following conditions:—

1.—THE LOCAL POST IS AUTHORISED—

a.—To carry ordinary correspondence, and also journals, circulars, remittances, registered letters, and other packages from the post-town to all the more or less distant portions of the district.

b.—To convey all such correspondence, &c., from the district to the nearest post-office.

c.—And to carry all such correspondence *between* such portions of the district as may be deprived of postal communications.

2.—Persons wishing to receive their correspondence through the post-office through the local post must pre-

sent at the post-office written declarations or authorisations to that effect from the board (or court) of the district to which they belong.

3.—The transport of local correspondence must be confined to the cross-roads between the postal town and the villages.

4.—The local post is authorised to employ special postage stamps, solely on the express understanding that their design shall differ entirely from that of the stamps employed by the imperial post-office.

5.—The country letter-carriers of the local post may have on their bags the arms of the government or district, but without the post-horn.

Informing your Excellency of the arrangements made, I have the honour to beg you to transmit to the various offices the regulations of the local post, and to engage the provincial tribunals to contribute on their side to its organization, so as to ensure to the inhabitants of the district the free interchange of their correspondence.

The Minister for Home Affairs,

(Signed) PRINCE LOBANOFF ROSTOVSKY.

The Director,

BARON VELIO.

This decree was modified by a subsequent one, dated the $\frac{1}{2}$ November, 1871, of which the principal articles are to the following effect:—

1.—The responsibility for the regular transmission of the correspondence delivered by the imperial to the local post falls on the latter, and should a registered letter be lost, the local post must pay an indemnity of ten roubles.

2.—The local post may be worked over *all* non-postal roads, and the carriers may, if necessary, cross the post-roads, or even go along them to reach the next by-road.

The second article forms an important modification of the original rule, which it is easy to understand must have led to much unnecessary delay.

So far, then, for the laws which regulate the local post. Their execution is left with the district land assemblies, and, perhaps—for on this point the writer's information is not quite clear—the provincial assemblies may have a voice in the matter. The establishment of a local post is, in the first instance, made the subject of a vote, and if the decision of the deliberative bodies be in its favour, the organisation of the service is left to the local board, or land court, consisting, as already stated, of a president and not more than three assessors, elected for three years by the district assembly. It is the president of this board who is charged with the duty of submitting the designs for the stamps to the assembly, whose approval of them must be obtained, and it is he who attends to the printing, and in fact to all the arrangements. He makes his report to the district assembly; but the fashion of publishing blue-

books has not yet affected the Russian provincial councils, so that the hope for a moment entertained by the writer of getting official statistics respecting some of the local posts is not likely to be gratified.

The president, who, for our purpose, is no other than the rural postmaster, lives in the chief town of the district. The offices of the rural administration, or *uprava*, are also situated there, and in those offices the local postage stamps are kept.

The limitation of the employment of the local post to those persons only who obtain authority from their local court to receive their letters *appears* to be very injudicious, more especially as it would seem to involve the necessity of a journey to the chief town to get there quired document; but, perhaps, in practice the regulation does not really work badly. We know but very little of Russian habits in the matter of letter writing. Probably the peasants are as averse to correspondence as in most other countries, and the rural mails are chiefly composed of business communications. The business men of the district would easily obtain the authorisation of the local board; and, again, it may be that personal application for the same is not necessary. Besides providing himself with a permit, the village inhabitant who wishes to receive his correspondence through the local post must pay an annual subscription of 1 rouble 43 kopecs, which it may be presumed goes to meet the current expenses of the office.

A supplementary decree, issued by the home-office on the 25th October, 1870, to some extent opens the privilege of the local post to "non-subscribers" by a sensible provision that should the sender of a letter, of which the addressee lives elsewhere than in a post-town, state on the envelope that he wishes the letter to be taken to its destination, the post is bound to send it.

The correspondence between the local courts, the dispute respecting which led to the establishment of a postal service—*pro bono publico*—is carried by the local post free of charge, as indeed might have been supposed, seeing that the service really belongs to these courts. No official stamps are employed to represent the postage, but the

letters are sealed with the seal of the district court, and entered in a book in which the receiving-court signs an acknowledgment of receipt. The Rjeff circular stamp, engraved on p. 185 of the last volume of the *S. C. M.*, is, in reality, merely used as a seal.

The localities served by the local post comprise, not only the out-of-the-way villages, but also not a few towns, which, happening not to lie on the imperial post-roads, are not in direct communication with the state post-office. On the other hand, villages which are on the post-roads, get their *through* letters by the state office, and are only indebted to the local office for their letters from other villages which lie off the post-road.

In the local service the rural letter carriers must play a very important part, for, as far as the writer can learn, no receiving-offices exist in the villages or towns; consequently it is the duty of the postman to deliver the letters *from* the chief town, receive the postage due on them, and collect the correspondence *for* the chief town. Seeing the distances they have to traverse, we should have thought it was the rule to send the postmen out on horseback, but it appears such is not the case. The postmen go on foot, and make their rounds in most governments three times a week; in some, at longer intervals.

(To be continued).

SPANISH POSTAL CHRONOLOGY.

BY DON M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

(Translated from the *Revista de Correos*.)

It will be admitted that bibliography and legislation, in the matter of which we treat, are the necessary starting-points for every kind of disquisition. Few philatelic works have been published in Spain, but, in compensation, a number of laws exist relating to postage stamps. Leaving the list of publications for another occasion, allow me to submit to your appreciation the following catalogue of postal regulations. Excuse its omissions and redundancies, and allow me to hope that you or your readers will be good enough to improve it by adding to it items which may have escaped me, and eliminating whatever may be considered out of place.

1849.

24th Oct. and 1st Dec.—That on and after the 1st January, 1851, the prepayment and registration of letters shall be effected by means of gummed paper labels which shall bear the bust of Her Majesty the Queen, and that the backs of the stamps must be moistened, to enable them to adhere to the envelopes. Notice given that the stamps should be put in the upper *left* corner, and that care must be taken to well wet the gum to prevent them from falling off. In the *Carta de Correos Postas* (Madrid, 1865) and the *Cartilla Postal de Espana* (Barcelona, 1868), both which may be considered as official publications, it is recommended that the stamps should be put in the upper *right* corner. This is more just, convenient, and logical.

1850 and 1851.

Nothing.

1852.

4th September.—That black printing-ink shall be used for the obliteration of postage stamps.

3rd November.—That letter-boxes shall be placed in various parts of Madrid for the service of the local post-office, and that special stamps, of which the use shall be obligatory, shall be fabricated for the local correspondence.

1853.

11th May.—That great care should be taken in obliterating the postage stamps to notice if any appear doubtful. Reference is made to the discovery of false stamps on letters posted in Granada.

29th May.—That arrangements had been made for the issue of postage stamps of a new type for the ensuing year. That at the same time corresponding stamps for the local service recently established in Madrid, shall be proceeded with, and that the price of *one cuarto* shall be indicated on them, instead of *three cuartos* as at present.

[I have not thought it necessary to quote the dispositions which refer either directly or indirectly to the changes in the Spanish stamps in the years 1851, 1852, and 1853.]

8th October.—That on and after the 15th of this month, the postage of every single-weight letter for the interior of Madrid will

be fixed at *one cuarto*, and that the stamps of that value will consequently be issued at once, instead of deferring the execution of the reform until the following year.

1854.

16th March.—On and after the 1st July, obligatory prepayment of official correspondence by means of the stamps which will be prepared for the purpose.

[On the 1st January, 1855, these stamps were changed, but I cannot find any decree which sanctions the alteration in shape and design].

16th March.—Proceedings to be taken in respect of letters bearing used stamps, and the punishment to be inflicted on those who may clean or sell to the public stamps which have passed the post.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—In the May number the only noticeable items, other than those of which we have already taken leave to make use, are found in the article on recent and undescribed emissions. Thus, in disproof of the statement, which originated with the defunct *Timbrophile*, to the effect that the green 1 rl. Honduras were reserved exclusively for home, and the rose 1 rl. for foreign letters, the editor of *The Philatelist* observes, that at the April meeting of the London Philatelic Society the envelope of a letter from Amapala, addressed to a London firm, was exhibited, whereon half-a-dozen of the green Honduras adhesives appeared duly pen-post-marked. This, however, as the learned editor justly adds, though it militates against, does not fully controvert, the statement referred to, inasmuch as the employment of the green stamp may have arisen from a temporary lack of its pink companion. Under the title, "Colonial Essays," the following notice appears:—

A correspondent sends two stamps for information regarding them, which we hope to obtain from a trustworthy source. They are both printed in colour on white, and perforated. One bears the numeral 1, white in centre; across which runs PENNY, in colour on white. The whole on a small patterned groundwork within double-lined frame. Red, 1 penny. The other is more elaborate. The large numeral 1 is traversed by the word SHILLING, as before, within a circle, the ground of which is engine-turned. Fan-shaped triangles are at each corner, com-

posed of curved lines, numerals of value lying thereon. The intermediate space has wavy lines; double-lined frame. Blue, 1 shilling. The perforation of these labels proves that they were not early essays for Great Britain. They must, consequently, be colonial.

We are inclined to question the postal character of these mysterious designs. They may, perhaps, do work akin to that performed by the "instruction" stamps of some European countries, but in any case their claims to attention appear to us to be very slight. If we remember aright, similar essays were sent us several years since for examination.

The June number of *The Philatelist* is well up to the usual standard. The most remarkable article is contributed by Dr. Magnus, and is no other than his prize essay "On the Various Modes of Printing Postage Stamps." The explanations of technical processes are given with the learned doctor's usual lucidity, and upon the appearance of the second part of the essay (the first part only being published in the number under review), we purpose laying its substance before our readers. "The Stamps of St. Louis redeemed from Obloquy" is the title of an article translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, of which we shall have occasion to speak when reviewing the latter journal. The "Spud Paper" for June is from the pen of the Rev. R. B. Earée, who worthily occupies the space usually filled by Mr. Pemberton. The forgeries described are some recent New Granada fabrications. The 1 c. green of 1871 is very fairly imitated, and it is only necessary to place a genuine copy beside the counterfeit, to appreciate the difficulty with which the describers of forgeries have often to contend in specifying any one *easily perceptible* point of difference between the true and the false stamp, notwithstanding the vast difference in the *ensemble* which really exists. Seen side by side with the genuine stamp, the poverty of the lithographed forgery is startling, but the writer of the "Spud Papers" must be able to point out such particularities in it as will ensure its detection without the necessity of having recourse to comparison. Struck with the secondary character of the points indicated by the Rev. R. B. Earée, we sought to discover others which if not more certain should be easier

guides to detection, and we then realised, as our readers may also do if they please, the difficulty of the task, and perceived that nothing could profitably be added to the writer's analysis. As we have said, the execution as a whole is far inferior to that of the real stamp, but the single notable difference consists in a flaw in the border-line, immediately over the top of the s in *NACIONALES*, making a white spot which joins the s to the line. In the 2 c. brown of 1872 a good test of the forgery is supplied by the two small scrolls across the top corners, containing the motto of the republic, *LIBERTAD* in the left-hand scroll, *ORDEN* in the right. In the genuine stamp these words can easily be read, whilst in the forgery *LIBERTAD* is totally unreadable, and *ORDEN* in right top corner becomes *ORGIA*.

The American Journal of Philately is now a fortnightly publication, but as the bi-monthly numbers are only half the size of the old monthly issue there is no real increase in bulk, and we are sorry to see a considerable falling off in the attractiveness of its contents. For the first four months of the year the journal was filled, to the exclusion of almost all other matter, with Mr. W. K. Freeman's monograph on the United States envelopes—an unquestionably able and exhaustive compilation, but, from its very nature, calculated to interest only a small section of our American contemporary's host of subscribers. In our humble opinion a succession of dinners off a single joint, however excellent that joint may be, is likely to exert a depressing influence on the appetite; and, whilst prepared to render all honour to the *pièce de résistance* which figured so long on our contemporary's bill of fare, we cannot refrain from saying that we should have liked to have seen it accompanied by some tasty side-dishes, upon the ingredients of which we might have had the pleasure of dilating in these pages. Now that Mr. Freeman's article has come to an end its place is taken by reprints, and the decadence which is marked by the almost entire absence of original matter is far from being of good augur for the future of American philately. For this reason we cannot help indulging in an almost angry feeling at our contemporary's dulness, and if these

observations have their effect in waking him up, we shall not be sorry. The only noticeable feature in the more recent numbers is the reprint of a lecture on the New York City post-office, delivered by James Watson, a letter-carrier, at Steinway Hall. From this we learn that in 1623 the primitive New York post-office came into being. Captains of vessels bringing letters from the old country began to deposit them at a coffee-house, where they were displayed in a rack; and the first letter-carriers were the good-natured hangers-on of the place who would volunteer to take letters to those whose visits to the coffee-house were rare. In 1764 the mail service between New York and Philadelphia was changed from twice a month to twice a week; and till some years after the revolution a boy with saddle-bags carried the mail without overloading his horse; now, a large mail-car, making four or five trips a day, is hardly sufficient to transport the mails between these two cities. Speaking of the abuse of the franking privilege half a century ago, the lecturer states that "A congress-man from New Jersey rode his mare to Washington during Jackson's first term, and then franked her back to New York, to which place she was led tied to the mail coach!" After that we think we may stop.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide seems to be going up just as the *American Journal of Philately* would appear to be going down. Its articles are original and readable. Thus, the opening paper in the current number, treating of the 1 c. Confederate stamp, is decidedly interesting, and bears a certain imprint of veracity and candour which disposes the reader to place faith in the statements it contains. After referring to the high prices realised by the copies, few and far between, which came on "the market" prior to 1871, the writer of the article in question—W. A. K.—goes on to give the following explanation of the sudden and surprising increase in the number of specimens on sale, which occurred about that time:—

In January, 1871, we received four hundred of the stamps, in sheet, among a quantity of other Confederate stamps, from a young man named Lucas, at Charleston, South Carolina. We were surprised thereat, never before having met with over a half dozen copies, and, supposing

from Mr. Offut's statements that *very few* were printed, and *none distributed to post-offices*, we at once put forth efforts to secure whatever more of the stamps there were to be had, and also information concerning them. From Lucas we could obtain nothing satisfactory, but later a young man named Dodge opened a correspondence with us, sold us several thousand of the 1 c. stamps, and promised to call at our office in New York at an early day, and give us some facts concerning the stamps. He visited us in June, and the story he tells we have no reason to doubt. He is a cripple, had been south for his health, seemed a reliable young man. We were convinced that the stamps were genuine *originals* from the fact that he had a limited quantity, which cost him nothing, and which he sold at any price, and that he was not posted as to the value of various stamps. His story was, that when the Federal troops entered the city of Charleston they ransacked the post-office, and threw the stamps into the streets, where they were picked up by whoever washed them. The stamps he had were thus preserved, and he obtained them from a lady-resident of the city who gave them to him. He gave us the lady's name, Miss A. D. Robinson, and upon our writing to her, she confirmed the story of Mr. Dodge. The public now has an explanation of the sudden appearance on the market of the "Confederate ones." We believe there are about 30,000 in the hands of various parties.

Among the other ly-discovered Nove (by the way) is wotains a description for the town of Goliad consists of a figure GOLIAD above, POST on the left, and POS side; the whole Three specimens of to obtain further postmaster have inserted, Mr. Clarke the rebellion that being "drawn on nected with it. (mens two are of th of these two has th GOLIAD; the thir Their describer om these stamps are p their authenticity, them we would rat their admission.

The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle is a new publication of about the size of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, containing fourteen pages of well-printed and well-written matter. It hails from St. John's, N. B., and is to some extent the successor of *The Canadian Philatelist*—a promising journal which, it is stated,

has been discontinued solely through the editor's lack of time to look after it. For a similar reason the new journal will only be issued once a quarter. We, for our part, should be very glad to receive it once a month, for we have derived considerable pleasure from its perusal. It contains, *inter alia*, a readable article on postal cards, their utility, collection, and arrangement, by Mr. L. W. Durbin (an old contributor to these pages), and a lucid and interesting paper on the coins and stamps of Prince Edward Island. From the latter we learn there was never "any legal or authorised coin for the island prior to the advent of the 1 cent copper coin which appeared in the autumn of 1871. The coins formerly passing current in the island were manufactured some ten (?) years ago by some private parties—who they were never transpired—on their own responsibility, and as the government did not interfere to prevent their circulation, they gradually came to be accepted as legitimate and to be generally used by the inhabitants; they ceased to be of value, however, upon the introduction of the new decimal issue." This intelligence is valuable, inasmuch as the first series of the island stamps have their denomination expressed in the irregular currency. The writer of the article says the coins were put in circulation "some ten years ago." This must be an error or a misprint, seeing that the stamps made their appearance in 1860, at which date the unofficial coinage must have already acquired a currency by prescription. The ninepenny stamp contains an allusion to the currency in the explanatory legend in the lower margin, "equal to sixpence sterling," the necessity for which, the New Brunswick essayist declares to have remained a mystery. He affirms, on the authority of a correspondent in the island postal department, that "but a few *hundreds* of this value were issued, and but a very few of that number were actually used." The accuracy of this statement we must take leave to doubt. It must have been very lightly made; for were it founded on fact, the 9d. Prince Edward Is'and would be an exceedingly rare, instead of a tolerably common stamp, and used specimens would be particularly scarce. We all know what is meant

by a few scores or even hundreds of stamps scattered among the entire philatelic community. Such stamps are rarely seen out of good collections, whilst, in fact, the ninepenny Prince Edward Island is hardly as scarce as its sixpenny companion. Decidedly the postal official on whom the writer relied was either careless or mistaken in his assertions.

With reference to the questionable Ecuador stamps recently chronicled, the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle* makes the following rather remarkable statement:—

Upon reverting to our albums of bogus stamps, we find perfect *fac-similes* of the half-real and the one peso in a set of counterfeit Ecuador, which we received about a year ago from a firm then trading in Boston.

We should like to examine the *fac-similes* here referred to, as, if they can be identified with the stamps received on this side, the proof against them would be very strong.

Le Timbre Poste.—The most important article in the May and June numbers is from the pen of Mr. Tiffany, and treats of the St. Louis stamps. The first portion of the article, which appeared in the May number, goes over ground which has already been trodden in the article on the "Postage Stamps of the United States," published in the fifth volume of this magazine. The Postage Act of 1845 is recapitulated, the circumstances under which certain provincial postmasters issued stamps of their own are dwelt on, and corroborative proof is given of the accuracy of our own statement that the postmasters' stamps were issued in the interval between the passage of the Act of March 3, 1845, and the passage of the second Postage Act in 1847. That they could not have been issued at a later period is evidenced from the fact that the second law forbade the postmasters to make use of stamps of their own creation. The pith of Mr. Tiffany's article lies in its second portion, published in the June number. It contains the following extract from *The Missouri Republican* of the 5th November, 1845.

STAMPS FOR LETTERS.—Mr. Wymer, the postmaster, has prepared a series of stamps, or rather marks, to be put on letters, and to show that the postage has been prepaid. The postmaster has only followed in this instance the practice in New York and other towns. These stamps are engraved. They represent the arms of the state of Missouri, and are of the value of 5 and 10 cents. They

are intended to be stuck on the letters like a wafer, and will be very useful to business men and to all who have to prepay a large correspondence, inasmuch as they will prevent the necessity of having to pay for each letter at the post-office. They will be sold at the rate of sixteen 5 c. stamps, or eight 10 c., for a dollar.

As Mr. Tiffany observes, the whole history of the stamps is contained in this short notice. It gives the name of the postmaster by whom they were issued, their value, their employment, the date of their issue, and the price at which they were sold; and it will be noticed that the postmaster is careful to reconp himself of his outlay for engraving, by selling his stamps at twenty-five per cent. above their facial and serviceable value.

With regard to the 2 c. and 20 c., Mr. Tiffany feels positive that they are the result of a fraudulent speculation; firstly, because Mr. Kershaw, the engraver, is certain he never engraved them; secondly, because Mr. Wymer, intimate as he was with Mr. Kershaw, would not have sought the services of another engraver; and, thirdly and conclusively, because there was no reason for issuing any such values, seeing that the postal rates were, respectively, 5 c. and 10 c.

Mr. Tiffany makes short work of the objections originally mooted by M. Albis, in *The Timbrophile*, and commented on at the time of their publication in these pages. M. Albis grounded his disbelief in the stamps principally on two facts. 1. That having inhabited St. Louis from 1848 to 1851, he had never seen the stamps; to which Mr. Tiffany answers that that is not astonishing, seeing that the circulation of the stamps ceased in the fall of 1847. 2. That all the postmasters since the one named in 1845 by President Polk, on being interrogated by M. Albis's friend (the judge, N. H.), had denied having any knowledge of the stamps; to which, in reply, Mr. Tiffany triumphantly poses the question: "As Mr. Wymer, who was postmaster from 1845 to 1853, died in 1865, that is to say three years *before* the inquiry was instituted, how did the judge set to work to interrogate him?" M. Albis also attempted to make some capital out of the fact that the stamps do not bear the word *cents* like those of other towns; but, says Mr. Tiffany, "Mr. Wymer had nothing

to do with his colleagues' way of acting; he issued his stamps according to his own notions; the public knew what price they had to pay for them, and he knew what he got for them; therefore there was no confusion possible, and consequently no absolute necessity for putting the word *cents* on the stamps."

Mr. Tiffany has very completely performed his work in dissipating the last shadow of a doubt as to the authenticity of the 5 c. and 10 c. St. Louis, nor has he less completely demonstrated the spurious character of the 2 c. and 20 c. We only regret not having space for his entire article, of which the above is but an outline.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our budget this month promises to be a very meagre one. Can it be that the hot weather has an influence on new emissions as well as on most other mundane things? It would almost seem so, and the hungerer after novelties must assuage his pangs as best he may by the perusal of the following list.

VICTORIA.—From this colony we receive a new ninepenny stamp, apparently of native execution, and very creditable "at that," as our American friends would say. The impression reminds us to no slight extent of the new 10 c. French, as it is in reddish-brown on pink. As to the design, it is not surprising that a colony bearing the name of Victoria should remain faithful to the representation of the Queen. The bust which adorns the stamp under notice is rather a peculiar one; it is distinguished by a neck of inordinate length, which terminates in a collarless robe, and consequently has an ungraceful look. Of the face we can say nothing, as in our specimen it is hidden to a great extent by the obliteration. The portrait is in a lined circle with VICTORIA in an arched label above following the edge of the circle, and NINEPENCE in a similar label below. As is the case with most of the Victorian stamps, the word POSTAGE is con-

spicuous for its absence. An ornamental border runs round the stamp, and the four angles are filled with small shields; those in the upper left and lower right corners contain a minute drawing of a kangaroo, whilst those in the opposite corners bear a representation of the emu. From this it will be seen that the Victorian stamp engraver has reverted to the employment of emblems, though he has not reproduced those which form the corner ornaments of an earlier series. It only remains to say that the new comer is watermarked with a single-line figure 9.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Mariopol.*—The annexed quaint design has not hitherto been chronicled.

Although hardly more than an inscribed diagram, there is something about the arrangement of it which attracts notice, and the emblems are decidedly remarkable. The cross dominating the crescent does not, however, make its appearance

for the first time on the Mariopol stamp, it has already been represented on the Belozersk 3 kop. black, and its significance has never been explained. There is this much, however, of novelty in the Mariopol, that the engraver has given us an outline of the profile of the man in the moon. Our illustration may be considered as almost a fac-simile of the original, seeing that the latter is printed in black on thick, strong, wove, well-gummed, creamy paper. It is rather a scarce but perfectly genuine stamp, the few known copies having been obtained direct from a gentleman holding a high official position at St. Petersburg.

Podolsk.—A correspondent suggests that the crutch-like arms on this stamp are really stone-breaker's hammers. Acting on his recommendation, we have re-examined the stamp, and find that, as far as can be judged from the blurred sketching of the emblems, he is right. Searching for a reason for the adoption of these hammers as the arms of Podolsk, our correspondent inquires whether that district is celebrated for its quarries? Being unable to reply ourselves, we invite

the attention of our Russian correspondents to the inquiry.



Riasan.—After a currency extending over about four years the diamond-shaped stamps, figured at p. 137 of our seventh volume, have been withdrawn, and are replaced by the two annexed type-set designs. It will be observed that the values are the same, and we must explain that the differences in design, such as they are, are accidental, or we might almost say incidental to the mode of composition. There are eight varieties in two rows, of which four are of the first type with undulated inner frame. On each sheet these eight varieties are repeated three times. The colour of these new stamps is violet-blue, on thick, white, wove, rose-tinted paper. The inscriptions are precisely the same as on the old stamps.

Livni.—M. Moens states that the round scalloped stamp, the nearest approach to a bobbin label which philatelists possess, had its value increased to 5 kop. shortly before its suppression, although no facial evidence of the increase was given.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.—A new description of vignette or "Cubierta" has been sent us by a lady-correspondent at Halifax, N. S., to whom our thanks are due. It measures only $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and is entirely type-set, having, in fact, the appearance of a simple ticket. It is struck in black on green, and a plain double-line border with fancy ornaments at the corners encloses the following inscriptions in ordinary typographic characters.

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA.

SERVICIO DE CORREOS NACIONALES, MEDIO-PESO.

CERTIFICADO ANOTADOS.

SALE DE	EN	DE	DE	187
REMITTE.	EL ADMINISTRADOR.			

At the bottom, outside the border, is the legend, SUPREMO DECRETO, MAYO 20 DE 1872. The specimen before us has the dates filled in, and bears the postmaster's signature. It is handstamped FRANCO, and bears sundry other illegible marks. The inscriptions denote that this label was applied to a registered and "noted" letter, that the value is a half-peso, and that it owes its existence to a decree of very recent date, and of apparently high authority.

Our correspondent can give us no information respecting it, further than that she received it from Panama with a lot of other stamps, and that in the same parcel was a similar label but with a large fancy border, and inscribed CERTIFICADO OFICIAL. We should be glad to receive further intelligence respecting these hitherto unknown emissions.

BERMUDA.—Annexed is an engraving of the new threepenny stamp described in our last number. It gives a fair idea of a stamp which is not likely to make a noise in the world, but will certainly go to swell the number of graceful mediocrities.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The current number of the Belgian journal contains a description of three secondary varieties of the new type of the 1 gr. envelope; the first has a thick figure of value 3½ mill. high; and between the N of GROSCHEN and the figure on the right-hand side are two little dots; variety No. 2 shows three little dots between the N and the figure, and the O in GROSCHEN is not so round; variety No. 3 has a thin figure, 4 mill. high; and the word GROSCHEN is composed of thinner and taller letters.

SPAIN.—From this distracted country we have no further news of the reported emissions, but it appears that Don M. P. de Figueras's post card has set the journals talking about the neglect of the government to provide cards for the use of the public, and our learned contributor has received well-merited praise for taking the initiative in reminding the post-office of its duty. Perhaps, however, the most striking proof of the interest which his action has evoked is the issue of another private post card by

some person or persons unknown. It is identical in almost all respects with that introduced by our correspondent, who, it may be as well to mention, writes in Spain under the *nom de plume* of Dr. Thebussem, and dates his letters from Wurzburg. The new card, however, contains the following additional line of inscription:—EDITION OF 1,000,000 COPIES FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT FRIENDS OF THE GERMAN DOCTOR. The point of the allusion lies in the fact that "the German doctor" mentions in the inscription on his cards that they have been struck off for the use of his own friends.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Our Brighton contemporary was pleased to manifest considerable scepticism as to the accuracy of the statement made in our official authority, pence light-brown a stamp of the greyish green, of the 96 c. Hong K. however, made a time has fairly elicited, as our unbi-perceived.

FRANCE.—We have just received a buff-coloured 10 centime post card, somewhat larger than the preceding emissions, with the same ornamental border as the first edition, and the inscription PRIX: 10 CENTIMES in the centre. The figures 10 are in thick type at least the eighth-of-an-inch high. The adhesive stamp is the new 10 c. On the back, running along the top, are four advertisements in as many compartments, and one of the advertisements appropriately consists of the description of a Guide to Phonetic Stenography, for the use of post-card writers who wish to keep their communications secret. This card, we presume, to be the one of which we quoted a description from *Le Petit Journal* some time since. We observe that the system of advertising on the back of post-cards has been patented by the "inventor," and that the card before us is one of the 1001st series.

ROUMANIA.—On the 1st ult. the Danubian Principalities were to follow the lead of their big European brothers in employing post cards. According to *Le Timbre-Poste* they

were to be of the value of 5 bani and 10 bani. From the same source we obtain the intelligence that the 10 bani of the provisional issue of 1872 has been met with on *laid* paper in bright and pale ultramarine.

HELGOLAND.—We have received official intelligence from the island that two new adhesive stamps, value, respectively, $\frac{1}{4}$ sch. and $\frac{3}{4}$ sch. are expected to make their appearance very shortly, and that they will be accompanied by new post cards. We are promised full details at an early date.

NORWAY.—The current series has received a fresh addition in the shape of a one skilling, printed in yellowish green. The new value corresponds in other respects with the previously issued denominations.

NEW GRANADA.—The new one cent adhesive exists in two shades of rose, pale and bright, and the unpaid letter stamp $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. is no longer violet, but *pensée*.

SERVIA.—The one para yellow was, it is said, withdrawn on the 1st June, and replaced by a 2 para black. This news requires confirmation.

ERRORS OF WATERMARK ON THE STAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA.

BY ETONIA.

AMONGST the stamps of New South Wales and Victoria are to be found numerous errors of watermark, the result of carelessness on the part of the printer, or of accident. To a collector desirous of acquiring patience, and a habit of examining objects attentively, and of combining the acquisition with a good deal of pleasure, an attractive field is here opened; for in every budget of the late issues of these two colonies, a good hand at detecting watermarks (which, by the way, is no easy task to one unaccustomed to it), will be pretty sure to discover some error.

I am induced to write this paper, as no monographs of the stamps of Australia have as yet been published, to my knowledge; if, however, some able member of the stamp-collecting fraternity will take the matter in hand, I feel sure that a great boon will be conferred on philatelic circles. Inverted and

reversed watermarks, caused by the carelessness of the printer, are of not unfrequent occurrence; and are received with delight by collectors of the "French" school, who are thus enabled to add many varieties to their albums; but with intense disgust by the true-blue "English" school, who no doubt wish that an Irish hedge-schoolmaster had been at hand to correct the wandering propensities of the manipulator's mind. I will now give a list of all the errors of watermark that I have been able to see or hear of, commencing with New South Wales.

1850.—View of Sydney. The twopence blue exists watermarked with letters forming part of the word STAMPS. A specimen, showing the letters P. S., in double-lined Roman capitals, is noticed in vol. viii. of this magazine, page 13.

Unperf.:

1851.—Diademed head, large square.

Sixpence, brown; wmk. 8.

One shilling, brick-red, wmk. 8.

Perf.:

Sixpence, lilac; wmk. 5.

" purple, lilac; wmk. 12.

1862.—Diademed head, rect.

Twopence blue, wmk. 5.

" washy blue, no wmk.

" blue; single horizontal line across stamp, thus: —•—

1853.—Registration stamps, unperf.

Sixpence blue and orange, watermarked with part of the word SOUTH. (See vol. iv., page 83.)

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

1854.—Diademed head, large square.

Unperf.:

Sixpence cinnamon, wmk. inv. 6.

Eightpence orange, " " 8.

One shilling dirty red, " " 12.

Perf.:

Fivepence sage green, wmk. inv., 5.

Sixpence lilac, " " 5.

" pale lilac, purple; wmk. inv. 6.

" pale lilac, violet; " " 12.

Eightpence orange, mauve (?); inv. 8.

One shilling brick-red, fawn, deep rose; wmk. inv. 12.

I have heard of a five-shilling stamp with inverted watermark, but am rather uncertain about it.

1856.—Diademed head, rect.

Threepence green, yellowish green, dark green; wmk. inv. 3.

1862.—Diademed head.

Twopence washy blue, blue; wmk. inv. 2.

Twopence blue, wmk. inv. 5.

1864.—One penny red, wmk. inv. 1.

* [Our correspondent has omitted the two errors in the twopence with name overarched. This stamp is found with watermarks 5 and 1. The threepence yellow-green, of the type of 1856, appeared in 1872 with a watermark of a double-lined 6.—Ed.]

Registration Stamps.

Sixpence red and blue; wmk. inv. 6.

REVERSED WATERMARKS.

1854. Large square, perf., eightpence gamboge, rev. 8.

One shilling fawn, rose; rev. 12.

Five shillings lilac, rev. 5/-

1862.—Twopence blue, rev. 2.

Registration Stamps.

Sixpence red and blue, rev. 6.

The current stamps of New South Wales are at present watermarked with a crown and the letters N. S. W. Specimens of newspaper bands are known watermarked with the letters A. P. (Australian Postage or Paper), having a kangaroo beneath, also with a kangaroo and emu facing each other. These are probably essays of watermark.

We now come to Victoria, a colony fertile in errors, of which the *οἱ πολλοί*—or, as a certain friend of mine would say, the olly-polly—are to be found in the watermarks.

1861.—Emblems.

Twopence slate, mauve; wmk. THREEPENCE.

1862.—Figure of value at sides.

Fourpence rose; no watermark.

„ pale and deep rose; wmk. FIVE SHILLINGS.

This watermark is probably not an error, but was found on the end stamp of the row, which consisted of fifteen, thus giving the value of the whole row.

1863.—Laureated head in circle.

One penny green; watermark THREEPENCE.*

„ „ „ „ 4; single-lined figure.

„ „ „ „ 4; double „

One penny green, deep green; single-lined figure 6.

One penny dark green; 8.

One penny green; watermarked with part of the word "Postage," and two perpendicular lines, thus:—



Twopence lilac, double-lined 1.

„ lilac, pale lilac; single-lined 4.

„ lilac, slate; double-lined 4.

„ deep lilac, single-lined 6.

„ slate, mauve; single-lined 8.

„ lilac, no watermark.

Fourpence rose; wmk., perpendicular lines, thus: |||

Probably the end stamp of a row.

Eightpence orange; double-lined letters ©R, &c., forming part of the word Victoria.

1866.—Numeral of value at sides.

Sixpence blue; wmk. THREEPENCE.

„ „ „ FOURPENCE.

„ „ „ double-lined 1.

„ „ „ double-lined 4.

* [This is an error we have not met with. There is an error *sixpence* which our correspondent has not chronicled.—ED.]

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

1861.—Emblems.

Twopence slate, inv. TWOPENCE.

1863.—One penny green, inv. 1.

1866.—Numerals at side.

Tenpence reddish-brown, inv. 10.

1871.—Same stamp, surcharged NINEPENCE, inv. 10.

REVERSED WATERMARKS.

There is only one reversed watermark, that of the tenpence reddish-brown, which is found with a reversed 10.

The threepence purple-lilac of 1866, and the tenpence slate of 1865, are watermarked intentionally with a single-lined figure 8.*

THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. FARRE.

I HAVE often wondered that so very little has been written concerning these stamps, for there is a fair amount of interest attached to them. Ten years ago we used to regard them in a somewhat patriarchal light, inasmuch as they even then bore the effigies of three sovereigns, which was a very uncommon thing in those early days. Now, however, Portugal is left far behind, philatelically speaking, by France, Spain, and other more restless countries, and, as a consequence, the history of her stamps remains yet to be written. My object in writing this article is to give as complete a list as I possibly can of the stamps of the various issues, and to describe the reprints in such a manner as to prevent any unwary amateur from mistaking the latter for genuine originals. My thanks and acknowledgments are due to our publishers, and to M. Moens, for very kindly placing at my disposal, for purposes of examination and description, a large number of these stamps, especially of the issue of 1853, of which my own collection, I am sorry to say, can boast but very few specimens.

ISSUE OF 1853.

(Col. imp. on white. Imperf.)

PAPER.—Rather soft, white, wove, unglazed paper, of medium thickness.

GUM.—The originals of this issue are all backed with *brown* gum. I wish my readers to notice this fact, as the reprints have *white* gum.

* [The threepence of 1866 is also found with watermark of double-lined 1.—ED.]

DESIGN.—Embossed profile of Donna Maria to left in solid pearly circle. Framework of engine-turned lines. On the neck of the bust are the initials F. B. F., which stand for the name of the engraver, Francisco de Borges Freire.

LIST.

- 5 reis, chocolate, v. pale to moderately dark.
 5 „ red bistre.
 5 „ yellowish brown.
 25 reis chalky blue, v. from *very* pale to medium.
 25 „ chalky greenish blue, v. from pale to medium.
 25 „ royal blue, v. from medium to very dark.
 25 „ dark dull blue, almost indigo.
 50 reis, yellow-green, v. medium to dark.
 100 reis, lilac, v. pale to medium.
 100 „ reddish lilac, medium.

The postmark usually found on the stamps of this issue consists of a number (20) of *thin* horizontal lines, forming a circle, with numeral in centre. The highest numeral I have seen is 150. These stamps are occasionally found postmarked in blue ink, but more generally in black. The postmark is almost always very heavy, and the oil from the ink sadly spoils the stamps, so that obliterated specimens do not look handsome in the album. This is a pity, for unused originals are exceedingly difficult to obtain, and I know several collectors who have designedly placed the set of reprints which I am about to describe in the post of honour for this reason.

REPRINTS OF THE 1853 ISSUE.

These stamps were reprinted in 1864, and were soon after very common in England. They are now much more rare, and those who sell them for what they are, ask as much for them as for obliterated originals, or very nearly as much. *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1869, speaking of these reprints, says, "The higher values have been reprinted with such a careful regard to colour that they cannot be distinguished from the originals, but collectors may be assured that they will not be offered the latter." This statement I can thoroughly endorse, always excepting the fact that the originals are backed with *brown* gum, whilst the reprints are backed with white, or yellowish white. This brown gum is the chief mark

by which we are able to distinguish the old from the new. The colours of the reprints are brighter than those of the originals, but in the 5 reis and 25 reis they have a streaky look; this is especially noticeable in the 5 reis. The dies also appear somewhat worn.

5 reis, yellowish brown.

In this stamp the coil of plaits at the back of the head is all broken up, and the upper part looks more like a tiny spray of ground-ivy than anything else.

25 reis, chalky blue, somewhat dark.

In this the engine-turning in the right-hand corners is very much blotched.

50 reis, bright yellow-green.

In this the engraver's initials on the neck of the bust are not to be found in any of the stamps which I have examined. The reprints of this value are finer than the originals.

100 reis, lilac.

Very carefully printed, but rather paler than the normal colour of the originals.

(To be continued).

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A CONVENTION for the reduction of the postage between Belgium and the United States has been signed.

CORRESPONDENCE EXTRAORDINARY.—A couple were recently married in Terre Haute, Indiana, after fourteen years' courtship, during which they had each written and received two letters per week, or a total of two thousand nine hundred and twelve!

PROPOSED ABOLITION OF FRENCH POST CARDS.—An agitation is being set on foot to abolish postal cards; the loss will be a gain to the Paris post-office in point of revenue. The innovation is asserted to be unsuitable to the Parisian character, as the evil doers are so witty and wicked that they adopt this plan for circulating slanders, which there is no law to punish or to repress. It never strikes the objectors that an unsealed letter can just as well be read by the maid and house-porter as a card, and has the addition of being more attractive and tempting.—*Court Journal*.

BEES BY POST.—The new practice of sending bees by post is causing trouble. A Washington correspondent explains thus: The cage is a block of wood, in which are three large holes, covered with a fine wire netting. Seven bees, including a queen-bee, are placed in each compartment, and are introduced through a hole in the side of the block, which is plugged up by a piece of sponge soaked in honey. The postmasters and clerks allege that the honey soaks through the paper placed over the holes, and daubs other mail matter; and besides, as one postmaster complained, the clerks in his office did not get

through examining and studying the contrivance until the bees stung every one of them; and in showing them how it was made, and how to handle it without injury, they stung him too.—*New York Times*.

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONFERENCE.—The *Voss Gazette* of Berlin states that the points to be discussed at the Universal Postal Conference, which was proposed two years ago, and is now about to be held in Vienna or Berlin, are: 1. An agreement between all European States, the United States of America, Egypt, Algiers, Russia in Asia, Turkey in Asia, and British North America, for a postal union, and the formation of a uniform postal territory. 2. The introduction of a uniform rate of postage and charge for registered letters within the limits of the territory. 3. A uniform charge on newspapers, printed matter, and samples.—*Daily News*.

POST-OFFICE TEA.—In a recent number we briefly referred to a tea which is advertised under this title, and of which the announcements are adorned with a *travestie* of the penny postage stamp. The attention of the House of Commons was drawn, about the end of May, to this imitation of the official design, and the following is the newspaper report of the Postmaster-general's observations:—

"In reply to Mr. HEYGATE,

Mr. MONSELL said his attention had been called to an advertisement of the "Post-office Tea," which purported to be 'supplied by postmasters only in Great Britain and Ireland.' Complaints had been received from various grocers; but, with one exception, they were made in consequence of a medallion stamp affixed to the advertisement, which was supposed to give some official character to the transaction. One memorial inquired whether the Postmaster-general had gone into the tea trade. (Laughter.) The post-office could prevent the affixing of the medallion stamp on the advertisement, but, as he was advised, there was no power to prevent the postmasters from selling the tea."

AN ANOMALY.—One day last month a French commercial house received a written order for goods from one of its correspondents at Nottingham. This order was inscribed on the back of an ordinary English post card. Below the impressed halfpenny stamp the writer of the "communication" had stuck a penny adhesive. The two values combined represent just *half* the letter postage to France. The card reached its destination, and no extra postage was claimed on delivery. The two stamps, the impressed and the adhesive one, were both cancelled, and, so far, everything would favour the supposition that the card had accidentally escaped detection; but here comes in the most curious phase of the affair. The card bears on its face a handstamped inscription in red ink, in a plain transverse oblong frame, NOT TRANSMISSIBLE ABROAD. How then, if not transmissible, did it come to be transmitted? The handstamped notice could not affect the receivers. The only conjecture on which we can fall back is, that, after having been stopped and stamped with the above legend, the card by some accident, got mixed again with the letters for France, and so passed. It has been handed to us, and we keep it as a curiosity; and also as the well-defined shadow cast by a "coming event" in the history of international postal relations.

THE PROSPECTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—From time to time reports reach this country that Newfoundland is about to join the Confederation; and as the absorption of that colony would result in the suppression of its postal emissions, the event is one which would interest our readers considerably, from a philatelic point of view; we, therefore, make no excuse for giving the following

extract from the letter of a gentleman who dates from St. John's, Newfoundland, bearing on the possibilities of the accomplishment of the union, and the present prospects of the colony:—

"At present there is very little prospect of Newfoundland becoming part of the Dominion of Canada. The people can see no profit in handing over fifty thousand pounds a year for the honour of being part and parcel of the Confederacy, with but a very small voice in the management of its affairs. We are to have a general election in November, which, it is likely, will cause a change of government, but there is little or no chance of its being a confederate one under the terms offered by Canada. We are progressing as fast as any of the maritime provinces, and when our country becomes better known, it will go ahead fast. At present we are the great link connecting the Old and New Worlds by telegraph, and sooner or later St. John's will be the landing-place of the wealthier class of emigrants to the United States and Canada. We have plenty of uncultivated lands as rich as any in North America, coal, copper, lead, nickel, iron, and marble in abundance, splendid timber, and our seal and cod fisheries. The two latter have been our only profitable investments for capital until the past seven or eight years, since which copper has been worked extensively at Tilt Cove, and with great success; lead at La Manche, and two companies are about opening coal mines in Bay St. George; an extensive deposit of lead has also been discovered at Port-au-Port. Men of capital and energy are what we want now; and as the Dominion mines are worked either by British or United States capital, we cannot expect our joining the Dominion would bring many capitalists thence to develop our mineral wealth."

CORRESPONDENCE.

A HORRIBLE "TAIL."

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Pray let me ask you to explain in your next number (or if the matter be beyond you, please insert this letter) the mysterious reference in the June *Philatelist*, p. 75: "Our Bath contemporary has Mr. Overy Taylor's *continuation*, in which," &c., &c. Has Mr. O. T. grown a tail? Have you bought it? Is it exhibited to incipient Darwinists for a consideration? Is it a "permanent" tail? How does it like the large German eagle, &c., &c.?

Pardon this intrusion on the part of an anxious
OURANG-OUTANG.

THE MEETINGS OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Your May number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is this day to hand. With regard to the notice, "The London Philatelic Society," I observe that the meeting of the 12th ult. was thinly attended. If, as I gather from a former announcement, the meeting is open to all collectors, would it not ensure a larger company if the hour of attendance were stated in each notice of future meetings? I live in the country, and trains have to be provided for. I could have shown *something* good in Mexico to-morrow, but the absence of the above information prevents my attendance.

Yours truly,

W. A. T.

THE STAMPED ENVELOPES OF THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly permit me to say, through the columns of your excellent journal, in answer to several inquiries from British and Continental collectors, that the papers, "The Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers, &c., of the United States," are all from my pen. In the January number of *The American Journal of Philately*, it is so expressed.

Secondly, that I have anticipated the requirements of those who collect only *cut* copies, and it is my intention to give a detailed list of what should be collected in order to secure *completeness* in that feature.

I am,

Very sincerely,

New York.

WILLARD K. FREEMAN.

THE HAMBURG POST CARD.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the paper on the Hamburg stamps, in this month's number, you speak of a post card, mentioned in *The Philatelist* for February, 1871. The said post card belongs to me, and the description given is correct. A friend of mine, who is a native of Hamburg, obtained from his relations there a number of the Hamburg envelopes for me, and amongst these envelopes I found the post card. I shall be happy to forward it for your inspection, if you would like to see it. I considered it at the time to be a new issue for the North German Confederation, localised for Hamburg; but I have never seen another copy since.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT B. EARÉE.

*The Curatage, Walter Belchamp,
Sudbury.*

[We should be glad to take advantage of our correspondent's polite offer to send us the card for examination.—Ed.]

NOTES ON THE MAY NUMBER.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—THE LA GUAIRA STAMPS.—There are one or two points in the comparison of the genuine and forged La Guaira stamps (*real* series), which I find it difficult to follow. I have genuine used specimens of the $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue and $\frac{1}{2}$ real pink, which differ in several respects from the Rev. R. B. Earée's description. 1. The upper and lower limbs of C, B, and E in CAHELLO are equal. 2. The D of MEDIO, though something like an o when looked at by itself, differs considerably from the o in the same word. 3. The 6 in the left-hand corner is placed exactly in the centre of a Maltese cross, and has no dot anywhere about it.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—GERMANY.—I have several specimens of the 2 groschen blue, 1866, showing the diagonal shading in the upper part of the figure; the lower part does not appear to have been shaded.

Yours truly,

Timperley, Cheshire.

G. H. H.

P.S.—I have a 2 skilling (head) Norwegian, which has printed on the *back* HSKCA in blue ink, and K 3 in black. I shall be glad if you can inform me what these marks mean. The postmark bears date 1862.—[We cannot think the marks referred to have any postal significance.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. D. P., Oswego, N. Y.—We are much obliged for your thoughtfulness in sending us the newspaper illustration of the U. S. postal card.

G. C., Tours.—We regret we cannot satisfy your request. We could not guarantee the correctness of a list of the Virginia locals issued in 1862.

R. P. M., Malta.—The "ocean penny postage" stamp never had any operative existence, nor is it even an adhesive. It formed part of the design of an envelope issued by the advocates of an ocean postage scheme years ago, in support of their views, and was never intended or used to prepay postage, being simply a fancy sketch.

R. M. C., La Chaux-de-fonds.—1. The Straits Settlements stamps prepay the postage at Singapore of local letters and of letters for this and, possibly, other countries.—2. The best catalogue at present is that recently issued by M. Moens, Brussels.—3. The number of stamps in a collection forms no guide to its real worth, which depends on the genuineness, rarity, and condition of the specimens.

A LADY COLLECTOR, Halifax, N.S.—1. It is difficult to recommend you a work on forged stamps, inasmuch as those which have been published, if not out of print, as is very probable, are more or less out of date. The descriptions they contain have been rendered valueless by the issue of fresh forgeries, and the only really useful analyses are found in the Spud Papers, which have been in course of publication by *The Philatelist* for the last two or three years. Even they, however, have not been gathered into a book, and we do not know whether it is the intention of the authors to reprint them. To our mind the best guide to the detection of forgeries is the price list of a respectable dealer, and for this reason: a stamp-importer who does a large business must go to the fountain-head to get his supplies, therefore he obtains them at the cheapest rate, and the competition which exists in the trade obliges him to sell them at prices which leave him but a reasonable margin of profit. It follows that, taking his advantages on one side, and his necessities on the other, the prices which he quotes are the lowest at which genuine stamps can be sold; and if stamps which are offered by a dealer of known integrity at a shilling are advertised by some mushroom trader at twopence, it is a fair inference that the twopenny copies are counterfeits. This argument applies, *prima facie*, to unused stamps; but it is no less applicable to used stamps; for the large dealers, who have won their position by their honesty and enterprise combined, have correspondents in every country, who supply them with used stamps in quantities and on terms which the ephemeral advertiser has no power of obtaining. In effecting the sale the action of competition comes into play to the same extent as with unused stamps, and specimens which are offered at nominal prices and by unknown persons are tolerably certain to be false. The sale of false stamps would never have acquired its present proportions but for the existence of a weakness on the part of collectors for great bargains. It is very gratifying to get possession, in a fair way, of a genuine half-crown stamp for threepence; but the opportunity very rarely occurs, the stamps on which any such concessions are made being almost invariably false. Our advice to collectors is, therefore, above all things to fight shy of great bargains, and make up their minds to pay a reasonable price for their stamps, if they wish to secure genuine specimens.—2. The first series for the French empire was issued unperforated in 1853-4; see the article on France, p. 165 of our last volume.—3. To this question the best answer we can make is given in our current article on new issues.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXIX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Greece.



WHEN first the Greek stamps made their appearance, their classical elegance of type created quite a *furor* among the then numerous but unscientific crowd of stamp-collectors. An acquaintance with the one unvarying type extending over some twelve years has, however, somewhat dimmed

our first enthusiasm, and the defective printing of the more recent editions has destroyed the delicacy of outline which gave such a charm to the early specimens. The design is now—if the expression may be coined—in ruins, and its suppression at no distant date seems almost inevitable.

The birthplace of art contains no engraver worthy of the name. When the Greeks—then living under the dominion of the beneficent Otho—determined on issuing postage stamps, they wisely resolved to order them in Paris, and for that purpose addressed themselves to M. Barre, the engraver, and M. Hulot, the printer of the French emissions. The type chosen—whether prescribed by the Grecian government or selected by M. Barre—was a happy one. No fitter postal emblem for the Homeric land could be found than the head of Hermes, or, to adopt the Roman title, Mercury—god of messengers and commerce—and none could more worthily have portrayed it than M. Barre. On the Greek stamps he is drawn with the true Grecian profile, his head adorned with the winged cap, called *petasus*, given him by Jupiter, and the accessory portions of the design are of that subdued and almost severe character which befits the subject. That they were copied from the French stamps detracts nothing from their merit; no more appropriate framework could have been chosen than that originally designed to enclose the profile of the goddess of liberty.

The first edition of the Greek stamps

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made its appearance on the 1st October, 1861. It was printed in Paris, as has already been indicated, by M. Hulot, and was composed of the following values:—

1 lepton	chocolate-brown.
2 lepta	cinnamon.
5 „	green.
10 „	orange.
20 „	blue.
40 „	reddish violet.
80 „	carmine.

All the values are printed on paper more or less toned, and in the 10 and 40 lepta the paper is of a decided bluish tint. The 10 lepta has a large figure 10 at the back, and is thus distinguished from the other values. No confusion, however, is possible with the 10 lepta of subsequent series, as the figure in this first issue is much larger than that on the later stamps. Reference is made in *The Philatelic Journal* to the existence of specimens of the first—or Paris-printed—10 lepta *without* the figure at the back. I have not met with any, nor can I find any reference to them in the catalogues I have been able to consult, but I have no hesitation in chronicling the variety on Mr. Pemberton's authority. In like manner I may mention *en passant*, on the authority of Dr. Magnus, that some specimens of the first 10 lepta were unofficially perforated—probably merely as a trial or for amusement.

The striking clearness of execution of the Paris-printed stamps in itself suffices to no small extent to distinguish them from the subsequent editions printed off at Athens, but in respect of all the values, except the 1 lepton and 2 lepta, a more decisive test may be applied, seeing that the Athens-printed editions all bear on the back an impressed numeral of value, which is generally in the same colour as the stamp.

Two Athenian editions are distinguished by most writers, and are thus catalogued.*

FIRST ATHENS-PRINTED EDITION.

On wove paper.

1 lepton dark brown.	} Without numeral at back.
2 lepta bistre.	

* The list is taken principally from *The Philatelist*, vol. i., page 71.

5 lepta	emerald green.	} With small numeral at back, of the same colour as the stamp itself.
10 "	orange (on faint bluish-tinted paper.)	
20 "	ultramarine.	
40 "	light reddish violet (on blue-tinted paper.)	
80 "	crimson-lake.	{ With <i>scarlet</i> numeral at back.
80 "	crimson-lake.	{ With numeral at back of same colour.

SECOND ATHENS-PRINTED EDITION.

Struck from the plates, much deteriorated, on coarser paper, and less delicate in shade.

1 lepton	light brown	} Without figures at the back.
1 "	reddish brown	
2 lepta	yellow-bistre, with pink tinge.	
2 "	cinnamon.	} With small numeral on back indicative of the value.
5 "	green, with more yellow in it than 2nd edition.	
10 "	dark orange on slightly bluish paper.	
20 "	ultramarine.	
40 "	reddish pink (<i>lie de vin</i>) on blue paper.	
40 "	solferino on blue paper.	
80 "	light pink.	

There is considerable difficulty in distinguishing between the *first* Athenian 1 lepton and 2 lepta and their Parisian prototypes. Perhaps it will be safe to say that the Athenian stamps are of a deeper shade, but even this is hardly a sure test. No similar difficulty occurs in respect of the third edition; the coarseness of the two lowest values, and especially of the 1 lepton, is but too evident. Some of the latter are mere blotches, showing scarcely a trace of the framework and inscriptions.

Although the coarse impressions are all catalogued as forming a *third* edition, there can be no doubt that there have, in fact, been several *tirages*, each a little coarser than its predecessor. These gradations in inferiority might be remarked by an attentive observer, but it would serve no good purpose to crowd an overwhelming number of specimens by way of proof into an album. The successive workings have been accompanied with suc-

cessive variations of shade. Thus we find the green 5 lepta in at least four shades; the 10 lepta in five; and the 40 lepta, the most changeable of all, in seven.

The design has remained unaltered in all its main points, but there is some room for the supposition which has been advanced, that the shading across the cheek and neck has been retouched and deepened. It is easy to perceive that the lines are much thicker and longer than on the Parisian edition, and they could not have been brought out by use, rather would they have been entirely effaced by wear and tear. Even the first Athenians show some difference from the Parisian series, and in the later impressions the face is fully whiskered.

The figures at the back are not always of precisely the same shade as the design itself. This may be specially remarked in respect of the 40 lepta, and would seem to indicate that the sheets are numbered at the back in advance, and that a surplus is sometimes left over. It may here also be appropriate to mention that there are two varieties of the figure at the back of the 5 lepta—a larger and a smaller.

The collection of the three editions, even by beginners, is to be recommended, although, perhaps, as an exception to the usual rule. The Parisian issue, or either of the Athenian issues alone, would very inadequately represent the Grecian emissions; the differences in the execution are so great that, although they simply evidence the difference between Parisian and Athenian printing, and are for the most part accidental, they cannot in justice be passed over.

ESSAYS.

The Greeks possess neither stamped envelopes, wrappers, official stamps, nor postcards, but, like most other European countries, Greece has had a couple of sets of spurious essays fathered on it. These essays are proof of the creative power of a demand. When Otho abdicated, and the King of Denmark's son succeeded to the throne of Greece, it was fondly hoped by collectors that the accession of the latter would be signalled by the issue of a new series of stamps. Hardly had the hope been expressed in the philatelic journals

of the day, than forthwith, mushroom-like, up sprang two fanciful types, said to have been submitted to the Grecian postal administration.

The engraving of the more striking of the two is inserted here as a *souvenir* of the credulity of collectors ten years ago. Of its artistic merit my readers can judge for themselves. These essays for a time were in great request, and fetched comparatively

high prices, for the essay mania was then at its zenith. Not very long after their appearance, however, their true character was demonstrated, and they sunk into well-merited oblivion. Considering the unsatisfactory state of the design of the existing stamps, it would be matter for rejoicing were we to learn that designs for a new series had really been submitted.

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.

BY A PARISIEN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

(Continued from page 6.)

BEFORE closing our notes on the stamps and envelopes of Austria proper, we should notice that the envelopes of 1861 were again reprinted towards the close of last year; but they differ in size from those of the reprint of 1866, and also in the letters of the words BRIEF COUVERTS. A newspaper band was also issued in 1872, for a description of which we refer our readers to vol. x., p. 171, of this magazine.

Austrian-Italy and Foreign Branch Offices.

At the same time that the Austrian empire created a series of stamps for home use, a series was also created for those parts of the empire where the accounts were kept in *lire* and *centesimi*, as also for the use of the foreign branches. When the change was made in the monetary system, in 1858 (see vol. x., p. 173), the value of the *lira* was made equal

to that of the *florin*, and was divided into 100 *soldi*; the *soldo* and the *kreuzer* being therefore equivalent in value.

FIRST SERIES.

Issued on the 1st of June, 1850. The type appears to be identical in all respects with that of the stamps of the first series for Austria proper, save in the enunciation of the value. Almost the same varieties in colour and paper are found in one as in the other. The consumption of the corresponding values seems, however, to have been different, for the smaller values are comparatively scarcer; and thus the varieties of shade in the 5 centesimi are not so numerous.



Classification.

I.—Handmade paper, varying in thickness.

- 5 cents, orange-yellow (shades), chrome-yellow (shades).
- 10 " intense black, black.
- 15 " vermillion (shades).
- 16 " vermillion on ribbed paper, or paper showing *vergeures*.*
- 30 " red-brown (shades), warm brown (shades).
- 30 " warm brown on ribbed paper.
- 45 " Prussian blue (shades), light dull blue.
- 25 " Prussian blue (intermediate shade), on ribbed paper.

II.—Wove thick paper.

- 5 cents, Naples yellow, to light chrome-yellow.
- 10 " black.
- 15 " scarlet (shades), to light brick.
- 30 " light brown.
- 45 " light Prussian blue.

SECOND SERIES.

Issued 1st of November, 1858. Printed on white wove paper, and perforated 15. Identical in type with the corresponding values in the second series for Austria proper.

Classification.

- 2 soldi, Naples yellow, light chrome-yellow (shades).
- 3 " black, intense black.
- 6 " vermillion, brick-red (shades).
- 10 " light umber-brown, reddish brown.
- 15 " Prussian blue (shades), light blue.

* Since the classification of the first series for Austria proper (vol. x., p. 126), Mr. Pemberton has shown us a specimen of the 3 kr. scarlet on *laid* paper with wide *vergeures*. He also mentions a 3 kr. of this series, printed by error in brown, but we have not ourselves met with it.

THIRD SERIES.

No general series of adhesive stamps was issued on the 1st of January, 1861, when a series of envelopes was issued, corresponding in design and in their values with the series issued at that date for Austria proper. These envelopes, like those of the kreuzer series, were probably manufactured of two sizes—the large and the ordinary; but only three values in the large size are known to exist, viz., the 5 soldi, 10 soldi, and 15 soldi. The entire series is printed on white wove, soft, unsurfaced paper. These envelopes, like those of the kreuzer series, were reprinted in 1866 in the ordinary size; but the reprints are distinguishable from the originals by the same marks as the reprints of the kreuzer series, viz., the difference in the form of the side flaps, and the watermark of one or more of the letters composing the words BRIEF COUVERTS.

A second reprint was made last year, but this may be readily distinguished from the first reprint by the size of the envelopes, which are about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch longer, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch wider, than the envelopes of the latter.

The series of envelopes seems to have been in use concurrently with the stamps of the second series; and though we find that the 5 soldi and 10 soldi, of the type of the envelopes, were issued early in 1861, yet, on the exhaustion of the supply of 3 soldi black of the second series, in August, 1862, its place was supplied by the green of the same type, which, it would appear, had been previously prepared for issue, as it is perforated 15, like its congeners, while the stamps of 1861 and subsequent years, up to 1864-5, were perforated 14.

Classification.

I.—Stamps of same type as envelopes of 1861; perf. 14.

1861.—5 soldi, brick-red and light red.
10 „ red-brown (light).

II.—Stamps of the type of 1858; perf. 15.

1862.—3 soldi, sea-green, varying in shades.*

* The stamps of 1850, 1859, and 1861 have all been reprinted; those of 1859 at least twice, as also those of 1861, which appeared with the addition of the unissued values of 2, 3, and 15 soldi of that series. All the reprints of the stamps of 1859 and 1861 differ, however, from the originals in the perforations.

III.—Envelopes.

3 soldi, green, light green.
5 „ vermillion, brick-red, and light red.
10 „ red-brown.
15 „ Prussian blue.
20 „ orange (shades).
25 „ warm brown.
30 „ violet (shades).
35 „ pale grey-brown (shades).

FOURTH SERIES.

Issued 1st July, 1863, contemporaneously with the 4th series for Austria proper, as the kreuzer series. As in this latter series, there are two distinct issues, one perforated 14, and the other 9½.

Of the envelopes, there appear only to be two issues, corresponding with the 1st and 3rd of the kreuzer series. *Sup.*, page 4.

Classification.

I.—Stamps of series of 1863.

1. Earlier issue, perforated 14.
 - 2 soldi, Naples yellow (shades);
 - 3 „ sea-green (shades).
 - 5 „ rose (shades).
 - 10 „ Prussian blue (shades).
 - 15 „ light reddish brown.
2. Later issue, perforated 9½.
 - 2 soldi, Naples yellow to orange-yellow.
 - 3 „ sea-green, yellow-green.
 - 5 „ rose (shades).
 - 10 „ Prussian blue (shades).
 - 15 „ reddish brown and light ditto.

II.—Envelopes.

1. Envelopes on ordinary plain white wove paper, surfaced, with flaps similar to those of the series of 1861.
 - 3 soldi, yellow-green (shades).
 - 5 „ rose and deep ditto.
 - 10 „ Prussian blue and light ditto.
 - 15 „ reddish brown and light umber-brown.
 - 25 „ violet (shades).
2. Envelopes on ordinary white wove paper, with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of the series for 1861, and with letters in watermark as in the same reprints.
 - 3 soldi, light green.
 - 5 „ rose (shades).
 - 10 „ Prussian blue.
 - 15 „ light umber-brown.

The 25 soldi is said to exist, but we have not met with it.

FIFTH SERIES.

Issued simultaneously with the kreuzer series. *Sup.*, p. 5.

Classification.

I.—Stamps, perforated 9½.

- 2 soldi, bright yellow to orange-yellow.
- 3 „ dull green (shades).
- 5 „ dull rose, madder-carmine.
- 10 „ Prussian blue to light ditto.
- 15 „ umber-brown (shades).
- 25 „ dull violet (shades), violet, puce.
- 50 „ salmon (shades).

II.—Envelopes.

1. Size A (sup., p. 5).

- 3 soldi, green (shades).
 5 " madder-carmine (shades).
 10 " Prussian blue (shades).
 15 " light umber-brown.
 25 " violet (shades).

2. Size B.

(a.) Paper same as for size A.

- 3 soldi, green.
 5 " madder-carmine and light ditto.
 10 " Prussian blue.
 15 " light umber-brown.

(b.) Paper with letters of watermark farther apart.

- 25 soldi, violet.

Hungary.

In or about the month of May, 1871, a series of stamps was issued for the kingdom of Hungary. These stamps have been described so recently that it will suffice to give a simple catalogue of them. It should be remarked that this series, together with a set of envelopes, first appeared lithographed, but the series of adhesives was quickly followed by an engraved series. Both are perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$, and are printed on plain, white, unwatermarked paper.

Classification.

1871. I.—Stamps lithographed.

- 2 kreuzer, ochre-yellow (shades).
 3 " green (shades).
 5 " rose, madder-carmine.
 10 " Prussian blue (shades).
 15 " light umber-brown.
 25 " lilac and dark ditto.

VARIETY.—5 kreuzer, rose, unperforated.

1871. II.—Journal stamp, lithographed.

Type 1, the mouth of the horn being to the right.

No value (1 kr.), scarlet-vermilion (shades).

1871. III.—Envelopes.

- 3 kreuzer, green (shades).
 5 " madder-carmine, dull rose.
 10 " Prussian blue (shades).
 15 " umber-brown (shades).

1872. IV.—Stamps engraved.

- 2 kreuzer, dark ochre (shades), orange-yellow.
 3 " chrome-green (shades).
 5 " madder-carmine.
 10 " blue (shades).
 15 " dark brown.
 25 " dull violet (shades).

V.—Journal stamp, lithographed. Type 2, the mouth of the horn being turned to the left.

No value (1 kr.), scarlet-vermilion, dark brick-red.

VARIETY.—The same on bluish white paper.

No value (1 kr.) brick-red.



VI.—In November, 1868, two stamps of the above type were issued, values 1 kr. and 2 kr., in various shades of blue and brown; but these are not postage stamps, being affixed to foreign newspapers, in the same manner and for the same purpose as those mentioned as belonging to Austria proper, vol. x., p. 172.

Newspaper wrapper, see vol. x., p. 187.

The postal cards issued by Austria are of such recent date that they scarcely need any description. For the sake of reference, however, we propose to give a list of the different varieties in our next paper.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

BARBADOS.—Following the fashion—for there is a fashion in connection with the issue of new values, especially among our widely-scattered colonies, who all draw their inspiration from the mother-country—Barbados has allowed itself the pleasure of two new stamps—a five-shilling and a threepenny. We have to thank our old correspondent, Mr. Daniells, for communication of early copies of both. The threepenny is the old type, pure and simple, printed in red-violet, perforated and star watermarked. The design of the five shilling is here represented, and may perhaps give the reader to imagine that the stamp itself is an effective one. It might be, were it

printed in some rich colour, but impressed as it is in a pale, reddish pink, it has a poor, washed-out look. The employment of the old type, which is almost entirely reproduced, is the great feature of the new stamp, the incorporation of the design of an ordinary rectangle being a novel idea. The inscriptions are in bold, legible characters, but the corner ornaments strike us as being very clumsy. The watermark consists of a star in each of the four corners. Our correspondent states that the revised fourpenny, with values added, has not yet been received, and that new plates are being prepared for the halfpenny and penny stamps, which also are to have the value specified.

ROUMANIA.—Post cards at present rule the roost, and form a large proportion of the new issues. The latest arrivals are the Roumanian, of which the emission was reported in our last number. The type, here reproduced, will certainly make no large claims on our admiration. It is prosaic in the extreme, reminding one of

nothing more lovely than the formal Wurttemberg envelope. Very evidently the Roumanian authorities have not obtained this type from Paris. However, it must be said that, on the other hand, they have not gone to Paris for information as to the price at which post cards should be sold. They have not adopted the elevated and unproductive French tariff, but, following the example of more enlightened administrations, have issued the cards at 5 bani (a halfpenny) each. Furthermore, they have copied the Dutch innovation of reply-paid cards, and have initiated a further advance, in extending to the cards the facility of registration, hitherto, we believe, confined to letters. Among the explanations at foot of the card, we find one which strikes us as rather amusing: "There is nothing to be paid to the postman." Is it usual, we are led to ask, to pay the postman a fee on receipt of a letter? or were the authorities apprehensive that the public, without the above explanation, would hardly believe it possible that the total charge was represented by the impressed stamp? Re-

turning to our muttons, we have to add that the stamp is printed in blue, and the inscriptions in black. In the upper left angle are the arms of Roumania, with supporters and motto, *Nihil sine Deo*, on a crowned mantle. The date of the Act authorising the issue of post cards—31st March, 1873—is quoted above the space reserved for the address. The card itself varies somewhat in size, and some trifling varieties in the inscriptions are distinguishable.

SPAIN.—For a wonder, the official announcement of a new series has been promptly followed by the apparition of the stamps themselves. It would have been that type received short has for

of King Amadeus. I recourse to the Cuban type of 1871, and have fitted it for service at home, as will be seen by our engraving, by simply substituting COMUNICACIONES for "Ultramar, 1871," and ESPANA, on either side, for "Correos." Nothing could have been simpler. The values and colours hitherto received are as follows:—

2 c. de peseta	orange.
5 "	pink.
10 "	bright green.
20 "	black.
25 "	chocolate-brown.
40 "	dull mauve.
50 "	blue.
1 peseta	mauve.
4 "	brown.

and there are, no doubt, more to come, but this instalment will, we presume, meet the most pressing requirements of the service, and satisfy the *Intransigentes*, to whom anything that savours of royalty is unclean. The $\frac{1}{4}$ cent de peseta remains in service, but the royal crown has made way for a mural one,—as per our illustration—and the stamp is printed bright green.



A German paper quoted by *The Stamp* states that the Carlists have issued one-real stamps, bearing the portrait of their chief, and that all letters not franked by these stamps, which fall into the hands of the insurgents, are destroyed.

A correspondent calls our attention to our omission to chronicle in due course the 20 c. mauve, head of Amadeus, issued at the beginning of the present year. We must plead guilty.

BRAZIL.—Some two years ago we described, on the authority of an American paper, a new 300 reis adhesive, printed in green and

violet; and a few months afterwards an esteemed correspondent at Rio, who had been shown a specimen at the post-office there, informed us that the stamp was really printed with green centre and orange-yellow frame. Our American contemporary, in a recent number,

states that a fresh supply of this value, in orange and green, has just been sent down from New York by the manufacturers—the Continental Bank Note Company—and wishes to know what has become of the first batch, sent out in 1871. On this point we are in a position to give our readers, and the *A. J. P.* at the same time, some information. The original supply is still lying in the Rio post-office, awaiting the entire exhaustion of the old small figure 300 reis, of which it appears but a small stock now remains. The issue of the new type will soon take place, and it is probably in order to have a sufficient quantity in hand to deliver out to all the post-offices, that a further supply has been ordered from New York. With great difficulty our friend at Rio has succeeded in obtaining a specimen of the forthcoming 300 reis from the post-master there, which he has sent to us, and which is, we believe, the only specimen at present in this country. We annex an engraving of it, which will render any detailed description unnecessary. The general arrangement plainly indicates that the design is of New York origin, whilst the differences between this stamp and its predecessors no

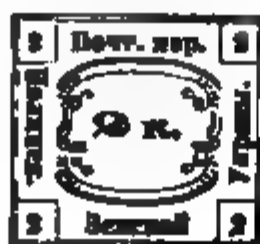
less clearly show that it is not from the same *atelier* as them. In fact, whilst the other stamps were fabricated by the *American*, the new-comer is the production of the *Continental Bank Note Company*. The impression in two colours also distinguishes this value from its *confrères*. The portrait—a very effective one—is in green, and the surrounding frame a rich orange-yellow.

UNITED STATES.—The post card already described at length in these pages has made its appearance. The annexed engraving will acquaint the reader with the design of the rather elegant impressed stamp and the frame. The impression is in brown. On the 1st ult. the official stamps were to make their appearance, and it appears that, in addition to a complete department will have i while the Department *A. J. P.*) will rejoice in the possession of four additional adhesives and corresponding envelopes, of the value of two, five, ten, and twenty dollars, respectively. These will be adorned with a portrait of W. H. Seward; and thus it will be seen that collectors of official stamps will have to provide space in their albums for no less than 206 new stamps at a single stroke.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Piratin* (Poltava.)—Our Belgian contemporary gives an engraving, which we repeat, of a stamp for the above district, said to belong to a rural post founded in 1868, and abandoned for want of support at the end of a year. The date both of the institution and of the suppression of this half-forgotten post is anterior to that of the government decree. The resuscitation of its stamps at the present day, though not without several parallels, is a surprising cir-

cumstance, as is also the suppression of the service. M. Moens gives full details respecting the stamp, and even states the number of stamps on a sheet. We do not know what may be the source of his information, but we cannot help expressing a hope that he has not been imposed on. Such a design as the above—though it may well have been chosen for a post established in an out-of-the-way locality—is easily concocted, and we have very few means of controlling its authenticity.

Nolinsk (Viatka).—A Nolinak stamp was described as follows in the list published by us in July, 1871:—Numeral and value in centre of circle, inscription in outer oval frame, figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., obl., 2 kop., green. This stamp has at length turned up, accompanied by three others, two of which are presumably of earlier date, and the third is in use now.



Adopting the order in which they are chronicled by M. Moens, and which is avowedly based on the facial evidence afforded by the stamps themselves, we come first to a square, type-printed 2 kop., in black, on straw-coloured paper. This, there is every reason to suppose from its primitive appearance, was really the first issued. Then comes a slightly more complex design, in which the value is enclosed in a kind of double parenthesis. This also is in black, on yellowish wove paper. The third stamp is the one already known, though not quite correctly described. In this emission, the value is in a double transverse oval; the impression is black, and the paper green.

Lastly, we come to the type in present use, which, in some respects, resembles the second issue, and is printed in black on glazed, bright red paper. If we seek an explanation for these successive emissions, all

of an equally primitive character, it will probably prove that only one supply of each type was printed off; and when that was



exhausted, a fresh type was composed by the printer from the characters nearest at hand, and, certainly, with an eye to utility only.

Ekaterinoslar.—It is stated by *Le Timbre-Poste*, on the authority of a correspondent, that the letter E in the centre of the stamp for this district does not stand for the name of the city, but is the initial of the Empress Catherine's name—*Kamepuna*. From this, we understand that the letter E stands for the Russian K.

Weissiegonsk.—A new series has already made its appearance for this district, and by the kindness of a correspondent we are enabled to annex an engraving of the design adopted. The stamps have rather a peculiar look, resulting from the manner in which they are printed. The entire design, inscriptions and all, is in black ink. The ground is coloured, and is printed over the inscriptions which surround the shield, whilst the external labels are left white. The black lined and dotted portions of the shield are left untouched, whilst the emblems they bear are coloured. The colour, as stated above, is printed over the black, and has been very successfully struck, as it rarely overlaps the white parts. In the new issue the crustacean is clearly apparent; the emblem in the upper part of the shield, however, does not appear to be the same as that on the previous type; and, seeing that the arms of the province or government are not likely to have been changed, the substitution of another device requires explana-

tion. What that other device really is we cannot quite understand. The date below the shield—1870—is also another noticeable feature in these stamps. As they have only just been put in circulation, it cannot be intended to indicate the date of emission, and we can only conjecture that it is inserted in commemoration of the now well-known decree of 1870, whereby the local posts were authorised. They are not, however, the first to bear a reference to the legislation which established the existing system of provincial government; in the Elizavetgrad a book figures below the arms, bearing the inscription RURAL ADMINISTRATION ACT. Of the new Weissiegonsk type three values only are as yet known, viz., the $\frac{1}{2}$ kop., above represented, coloured black and yellow; the 1 kop., black and green; and the 5 kop., black and crimson. Our specimens are clipped close round and gummed.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A new threepenny stamp—differing from its predecessor, however, in secondary details only—quietly made its appearance on the 15th ult. The principal change is in the corner squares; which, instead of being solid, with white letters, contain each a white octagon, in the centre of which is a coloured letter; the little side disks in like manner are now white, with coloured numerals (11). These modifications have either necessitated, or been made the occasion for, the re-engraving of the entire framework, with the following results: the foliate ornament no longer touches the external frame; the corner squares now touch the inscribed frame; the white line running round the latter has been made broader, at the expense of the solid part of the frame, and, as a consequence, the inscriptions are in narrower and wider letters. Altogether, we are inclined to think the appearance of the stamp has been improved by the lightening of the details. The colour remains the same, though that also seems a shade lighter. It will not be forgotten by our readers that the intention of the postal authorities is to introduce white corner disks and coloured numerals in all the values of this series, and it is in part execution of this plan that we receive this new threepence.

MONTENEGRO.—The rumour which origi-

nated with *Le Timbre-Poste*, that this country is about to employ postage stamps, finds confirmation in the *Gazette des Timbres*, which contains an illustration of the adopted type, and information as to the circumstances connected with its creation. The design consists of a three-quarter face portrait of the prince of Montenegro, representing a young man of a frank, prepossessing aspect. Laurel branches, united by a knot below, encircle the portrait. The external frame is a rectangular one, with *fleur-de-lis* ornaments at the corners, and inscriptions, in white letters, which Dr. Magnus translates thus: On the left, BJIEGA; above, POCHTE; and on the right, TSR.GORE, signifying POSTAGE STAMP OF TSERNAGORE. In the lower margin is the denomination NOVICH (equalling about a kopec), preceded by the numeral of value. This design is the work of the imperial printing-office at Vienna, whither the prince went recently to visit the international exhibition. Seven values have been printed off, in colour on white, as follows:—

2 novtch	yellow.
3 „	green.
5 „	vermilion.
7 „	violet.
10 „	blue.
15 „	bistre.
25 „	brown.

These are, however, only proofs, and there is an eighth—a 10 novtch, blue on orange-yellow, intended probably for journals. All the values are to be gummed and perforated, like the Austrian stamps. The date of issue is not yet fixed. The characters of the inscriptions resemble the Russian very closely, and Dr. Magnus explains it by the fact that the Russian alphabet is borrowed from that of the ecclesiastical Slavonic. The learned doctor concludes his notice of the stamps by expressing his confidence in the accuracy and good faith of the Viennese correspondent from whom his information was received.

CHILI.—Our correspondent, Mr. Meyer, of Valparaiso, has obligingly forwarded us a frank stamp which has a curious history of its own. It is composed of two parts: first of all, there is the word CANCELADO between branches in a transverse oval, and over this

has been struck the word FRANCA in a narrow oblong frame with convex ends. Mr. Meyer's explanation of their employment had better be given in his own words:—

Enclosed is a frank which is stamped on letters coming from the Caracoles mines. Caracoles is situate in a piece of territory claimed by Chili and by Bolivia. The discovery of silver mines led to a treaty between the two countries (completed in December last), in which it was agreed that both should share the revenue derivable from the said mines, saltpetre, &c. According to this arrangement, the profits of the post-office are to be divided; and, consequently, the Bolivian stamps (which were used at first) could no longer be employed, and the handstamp in question came into use. The "franca" stamp is the same as those used here for letters that go free, and the "cancelado" is, for aught I know, the signature of the Bolivian post-office. At first they were stamped in green, and now in black.

In the "Correspondence" columns will be found a letter from Mr. Meyer, containing a list of the Chilean envelopes that are at present in use.

ST. LUCIA.—The annexed cut is that of a type common to three suspicious or, at least, doubtful stamps, which are stated, and probably with truth, to have been printed in Paris. M. Moens, though he has received them through a gentleman of unquestioned integrity, is not disposed to admit them, except upon full proof of character; and he remarks that, by a curious coincidence, the saints have been specially sought after by the concocters of stamps. Thus we find spurious emissions for Saint Domingo, San Marino, Saint Kitt's, Saint Thomas, &c. The three stamps are, respectively, numbered 1 (*gy.*, penny), ultramarine; 3, magenta; 6, violet.*

ANTIGUA.—The penny is now printed in an effective deep red, with cc. and crown watermark. The gum is much thinner than on preceding issues; probably a different composition has been adopted, to prevent

* At the last moment before going to press, we receive the *Gazette des Timbres*, which contains information that "Messrs. Duboulay, Minvielle, & Co. have obtained the concession of a line of steamboats between Castries, Port Louis, and around the entire coast of St. Lucia. In virtue of an authorisation of the government, they will work the postal service from the interior of the island," and to that effect have had the above series of stamps lithographed in Paris. We leave with Dr. Magnus the responsibility for these details; he may or may not have been imposed on.

that deterioration and change of colour to which the Antigua penny are so peculiarly liable.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—*The American Journal of Philately* states that the set of Argentine stamps is to be completed by the addition of the three following values—30 c., 60 c., and 90 c.

SERBIA.—The 2 paras, of which the issue was reported in our last, is now in circulation, and is of a new type, of which we expect to be able to give an engraving in our next.

NATAL.—The shilling has just come over in a new colour—a kind of reddish violet, with the surcharge, POSTAGE, in Roman capitals crossing the stamp from bottom to top.

JAPAN.—From *Le Timbre-Poste* we learn that a 4 sen rose has been issued, of which the design resembles that of the current 2 sen.

CEYLON.—The 4 cent envelope, originally of a dull, greyish blue, is now printed bright blue.

FINLAND.—A new post card for this country is announced.

THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARLE.

(Continued from page 110.)

The stamps bearing the effigy of Donna Maria hardly had time to get common; for barely two years elapsed before they were replaced by the stamps of the new monarch. When I say they had not time to get common, I must except the 25 reis, which cannot be ranked with stamps of even average rarity. I should be glad if any of our correspondents would enlighten me as to the reason why this 25 reis was so much more used than the other three varieties. Judging only from the appearance of the reprints, any one would say, most unhesitatingly, that the 5 reis ought to be much more common than the 25 reis, or, in fact, than any of the other values; for the die of the said 5 reis appears to have had at least as many impressions printed from it as all the others

put together. In the face of this, the 5 reis, used, sells for three or four shillings, whilst the 25 reis can be bought for as many pence. These facts lead me to offer the following suggestions:—

1. A very large number of 5 reis stamps must have been printed, *and destroyed*; or,
2. A very large number of reprints must have been taken from the 5 reis die in 1864. Either of these things would account for the decadence of the 5 reis die; but I am inclined to the suggestion No. 1, because the reprinted 5 reis sells for half as much again as either of the other three, which would not be the case if the 5 reis had been the most extensively reprinted of the whole set. The reader must judge for himself as to which of my suggestions is the more probable. As I have said, these stamps had a currency of about two years, when they were replaced by the

ISSUE OF 1855.

Col. imp. on white, imperf.

PAPER.—White wove paper, unglazed, a trifle stouter than that of the first issue.

GUM.—Yellowish white.

DESIGN.—Embossed profile of Don Pedro to right, in solid pearled circle or oval. On the neck of the bust are the initials of the engraver Francisco de Borges F. On the stamps of Donna, these initials are emb. but on the stamps of this they are in sunken l. The King is represented having straight hair. Of the 5 reis Dr. Magnus mentions five types, "distinguished from each other (says *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for April, 1870) by various differences in the details of the design, and, among others, by the number of pearls forming the circle; these, when the condition of the specimen is good enough to permit of their being counted, are among the best evidence of the variety. For our readers' guidance, the following are the numbers for the five varieties, respectively: 75, 81, 89, and two, each 76."

In the state in which the obliterated Portuguese generally come to hand, it is ex-

cessively difficult to distinguish the various types. To count the pearls on the 5 reis of this issue, the best plan, in my opinion, is to turn the stamps over, and examine them from behind. With considerable difficulty I have succeeded in making out the following from the five types mentioned by M. Moens.

Type 1.—Lettering very large and coarse; first R of CORREIO has a short tail; i higher than the other letters; second R and E both touch circle round pearls; S of REIS at some distance from ornamental spandrels; all the loops of spandrels small; 89 pearls round the head.

Type 2.—Lettering large, but not coarse; foot of second R in CORREIO almost touches circle; i lower than the other letters; S of REIS almost touches spandrel; loops of spandrels, very small; 76 pearls.

Type 3.—Lettering large, but very thin; all letters of CORREIO at some distance from circle; R higher than the other letters; S of REIS not near spandrels; loops of spandrels moderately large; 76 pearls.

Type 4.—Lettering very small, and not near circle; R and i a little higher than the other letters; loops of spandrels very large; 75 pearls.

Type 5.—Medium-sized lettering, not touching circle; i higher than the other letters, and rather crooked; loops of spandrels very large; 76 pearls.

The number of pearls does not correspond in every case with the numbers given in the extract quoted above from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*; but the fault is very possibly on my side; for though I have counted the pearls on each stamp carefully several times it is, nevertheless, very easy to make a mistake.

LIST.

5 reis,	chocolate, v. medium to dark.
5 "	red-bistre, medium.
5 "	yellowish brown, v. medium to dark.
25 reis,	chalky blue, medium.
25 "	dull blue, v. medium to dark.
25 "	royal blue, v. medium to very dark.
50 reis,	yellowish green.
100 reis,	lilac.
100 "	reddish lilac.

ISSUE OF 1856.

In 1856 the stamps described above were suppressed, and a new set issued, similar to the last, except that the king's hair was represented as *curly*, instead of straight as before. From the fact that this new issue was almost exactly identical with the last—the only difference being in the portrait of the king—it is very probable that the alteration was made by His Majesty's own desire, as I do not fancy the government would have gone to the expense of a new issue, with such a very small alteration, unless the king had expressed a wish to that effect. This, however, is only my own theory. I have found two types of the 5 reis of this issue, each with 82 pearls round the bust. The first has the pearls very large, very close together, and oval; whilst in the second they are small, tolerably far apart, and quite round. M. Moens mentions two types of the 25 reis blue.* I have also found two types of the 25 reis rose, in which the figure 5 differs considerably.

LIST.

5 reis,	chocolate, v. medium to very dark.	
5 "	pale bistre.	
5 "	red bistre, v. pale to medium.	
5 "	yellowish brown, rather dark.	
5 "	very dark blackish brown.	
(Two types, R. D. E.)		
25 reis,	chalky blue.	
25 "	bright royal blue, v. medium to dark.	
(Two types, J. B. Moens.)		
25 reis,	rose, v. pale to medium.	} Issued in 1857.
25 "	bright rose-carmine, v. medium to dark.	
(Two types, R. D. E.)		
50 reis.	{ Whether these two stamps were ever printed, or not, I cannot say. At all events they were not issued. Probably the 50 reis and 100 reis of the last issue were not exhausted.	
100 "		

REPRINTS OF THE 1856 ISSUE.

As far as I can learn, only one of the stamps of Don Pedro has been reprinted, and that is the 5 reis, 1856. The paper is a little thicker, the gum whiter, the colour a warm yellowish brown, not at all streaky. I fancy the die has been touched up a bit, and the

lines deepened. It is of my second type, with the 82 small round pearls; and the lettering is thin and very highly embossed. Frequently the pressure of the die has cut the stamp clear from the sheet for three parts of the way round. Some amateurs deny that this stamp is a reprint, but I have the authority of M. Moens—and, I believe, Dr. Magnus—for saying that it is. I have also never seen it obliterated, and it looks far too new and fresh for a stamp some sixteen or seventeen years old. I should be glad of the opinions of any brother philatelists concerning this stamp, especially as it is the only type of the 5 reis of this issue which is offered to collectors in any quantity—a fact which is in itself suspicious.

Next month, before going into the later issues, I shall endeavour to give a fuller account of the various types of the Don Pedro stamps. Up to the present date I have not succeeded in obtaining all the different types.

(To be continued).

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF
THE RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMPS.

BY OVERT TAYLOR.

(Continued from page 100.)

WE have endeavoured in the foregoing paragraphs to give an outline of the history of the establishment of the Russian local posts (as far as it is known), and to trace their powers and functions. That the service is yet in its earliest infancy is evident, but it is also evident that it is capable of great expansion, and is likely to prove an important auxiliary in the development of civilisation and commerce in Russia.

The surprising extent to which the system of local posts has been adopted in the few years which have elapsed since it was first thought of, shows a quick appreciation of its benefits on the part of the rural administrations. Of the 185 districts of which European Russia is composed, over fifty—scattered through twenty-three of the thirty-two departments—have already issued stamps. Some of these districts are situated in remote regions, Kotelnich, for instance, but the majority are found in or near the centre of the

* [The two types of the 25 reis blue are readily distinguishable by observing the network of the ground.—ED.]

empire, and it is a significant fact that many of them are in proximity to the great arterial railways. Thus, on or near the line from St. Petersburg to Moscow, we find the towns of Tver and Valdai, Novgorod, Borovitchi, &c.; on the line beyond Moscow, stretching in a south-easterly direction, are Kalomna, Riasan, Sapojok, Tamboff, Bogorodsk, &c.; more to the south we meet with Livni, Maloarchangelsk, Voronej, and Boguchar; and, finally, in regions lying near the sea of Azoff, we come upon Elisavetgrad, Peerjatin, Ekaterinoslav, and Cherson. Probably it is in these districts, in which railway communication has given a great impulse to trade, that the necessity of supplementing the imperial postal service by a local post, and thus linking the outlying portions with the chief towns, has made itself felt. In the really remote provinces, where the current of trade is sluggish, very little would seem to have been done towards improving the communications.

Turning now to the stamps themselves, we find it very difficult—we may say impossible—to trace the history of the various types and series with anything approaching to accuracy. This arises from the fact that they have been accidentally discovered one after another, and that for the great majority no precise date of emission can be fixed. The first stamp brought under the notice of collectors was the original 5 kop. Bogorodsk, blue. This was unearthed by the St. Petersburg correspondent of this journal, and described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1869, page 75. The specimen which was then commented on was obliterated, and one of the very few used Russian locals which have made their way over here. It was figured in the number for July, 1869, in company with the Borowitz stamp which M. Moens was the first to meet with. Nothing was then known respecting the service for which they were issued, but the correspondent above referred to, wrote that he had seen several other types used for other places. A month later the Schluesselburg and Riasan stamps cropped up. The Soumy emission was shown at the Philatelic Society's meeting in October, and the Cherepovetz was described by M. Moens in December, 1869. In the number of this magazine for March,

1870, Mr. W. E. Hayns, in an interesting letter, discussed the variations in the inscriptions on the then known locals. No further notice appears respecting them, until November of that year, when the Belozersk made its appearance. In March, 1871, the Louga stamp was introduced to notice, and was followed in May, by the Berdiansk and Tver impressions. Finally, in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* for July, 1871, appeared what purported to be a complete and authentic list of Russian locals. Though not, in reality, complete, it was in the highest degree, authentic. It included not only the stamps above mentioned, but a number of others previously unknown—in all, fifty-one. The different types were described from specimens which adorned the album of a painstaking official at St. Petersburg, who had been at great trouble to obtain them. They are now all of them known to collectors, having come over one after the other during the period which has elapsed since the publication of the list, which, be it said to the honour of the compiler, has formed the starting-point for all subsequent research.

It is unnecessary to trace any further the introduction of the local stamps to the philatelic world, and a critical analysis of the various issues does not enter into the scheme of a merely preparatory article like the present; suffice it to say that hardly a month has passed, since the appearance of the list, but what the chronicle of new issues has contained the description of one or more fresh arrivals. The number of specimens has risen to something like 140, and collectors will have seriously to consider the propriety of setting apart a special album for the Russian local emissions, treating each district as if it were a separate country. The propriety of such a course is rendered evident by the not unfrequent changes in type which take place; thus, three designs in succession have been issued for Cherson; three for Bogorodsk (whose stamps and envelopes have risen to the number of twenty-three); two for Belozersk; two for Tamboff; two for Louga; two for Rjeff; two for Weissiegonk, &c. Reverting to the question of date of issue, if we accept as correct the statements made in *Le Timbre Poste* and M.

Moens' new catalogue—and we must suppose they are made on good authority—one at least of the Russian locals, the Schluesselburg, took its rise so far back as in 1865, and is said to have been withdrawn from circulation in 1868, so that it ran through its term of currency long before the law sanctioning the establishment of local posts was passed. That under such circumstances specimens of the Schluesselburg stamp should be so common as they are, is a fact which seems to require some explanation. Other locals, though not equally ancient, have been in existence for several years. Thus, exclusive of those mentioned in these pages in 1869 and 1870, which must even then have been in use for some considerable time, we find that the Demiansk, according to M. Moens, was issued in 1868, the Saratoff in 1869, the Koseletz in 1867, and for the first Kotelnitz the exact date of issue—the 22nd June, 1869—is quoted by the Belgian philatelist.

With regard to the designs of the stamps, they may fairly be divided into three classes. 1. Simple inscriptions, consisting of the name of the issuing administrations and the value, in a framework more or less ornamental. 2. The heraldic emblems of the district, or of the district and province combined, on the same shield. 3. Postal emblems. The first, which is certainly the least interesting class, finds its representatives in the Tichvin, Tver, Kiriloff, Boguchar, first Livni, and first Belozersk emissions. The third is composed of the Cherson stamps, with letter-carrier on horseback, galloping, and the Melitopol, with letter-carrier on horseback, ambling.

To the second class it is necessary to give more particular attention; for, apart from the purely philatelic interest which all stamps, pretty or ugly, present, as stamps, to the collector, the emissions on which are figured the local heraldic bearings of the district possess an interest of their own, from the fact that they illustrate the specialities of the region to which they belong. Unfortunately, even with respect to the meaning of the designs, our information is still very incomplete. It is not possible to give a comprehensive explanatory list, but it will not be out of place to insert here a *résumé* of the explanations which have been given

respecting the devices on several of the local stamps.

Belozersk, 3 kopecs, fish and cross saltire. The fish indicates the situation of the town near the Beloe Ozero (White Lake), fish being the principal trade article there.

Berdiansk, a seaport on the Azoff, hence the anchor.

Bogorodsk.—The upper part of the oval contains the Moscow arms—St. George and the dragon—the lower, a weaving-loom or spinning-wheel, an emblem of the cotton works and silk manufactories of the town. Some discussion arose recently as to whether the horseman is really intended for St. George or for a Russian emperor; but it was finally admitted to be intended for the saint.

Borovich is situated on the river Msta, which forms a connecting link in the canal system which unites the Baltic with the Caspian sea. The design in the right half of the stamp—a kind of staircase—is a lock or sluice, an illustration of the cataracts of the Msta, near Borovich.

Kolomna.—The name points to the significance of the column or pillar which is, no doubt, the arms of the district.

Schluesselburg.—The name, literally translated, signifies *Keyborough*, the adoption of a key as its armorial device thus receives its explanation.

Tamboff.—Bee-hive: bee-keeping being very much spread, the bee-hive is the armorial design, not only of the town but also of the province of Tamboff. This is why it appears also on the stamps of Shatzk. The hive also indicates, in a general way, the fertility of the land.

Soumy.—The name Soumy is the plural number of the word Souma, meaning bag; this is the reason for the strange coat of arms of that town, which might be taken to be simply a representation of a mail-bag.

Valdai.—The peak has reference to the Valdai mountains, which form a chain of about 200 miles in length and 50 in breadth. They are situated in the south-eastern part of the government of Novgorod, and among them the Volga, Duna, Dnieper, and other rivers have their source. Their greatest elevation is only 800 feet, and they have

attracted attention simply because they are almost the only hills in European Russia.

This is but a sample of the instructive lessons which may be derived from the quaint and uncouth Russian locals, which by the very law which sanctioned them are condemned—fortunately for collectors—to bear devices which shall not be capable of confusion with the stamps of the imperial office. The first Melitopol stamp was suppressed because its device was considered to transgress the limits; the Dmitrieff, on the other hand, is maintained in use although its design consists of the imperial arms—an exception for which there must be some good reason.

The St. Petersburg stamps are included by M. Moens among the Russian locals, but, as it appears to the writer, on insufficient grounds. It is certain that their employment has nothing in common with that of the locals proper, and they were issued before the present system of rural government came into being; they bear, moreover, the imperial arms, and can only be considered as stamps issued for a special purpose by the imperial post.

Mr. Pleske, of St. Petersburg, in a letter published in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* last year, insists on the inclusion of the Livonian stamps among the Russian locals, because they really perform the same service. But the Livonian stamps were issued in 1863-4, and, according to statements which appeared at the time, the German inhabitants of the Wendenschen Kreis had possessed a local postal service, founded by Moravian immigrants, for many years; and when Russia took possession of Livonia, the inhabitants were confirmed in the exercise of their peculiar privileges,—among others the local postal institution, which has ever since been respected. Hence, the writer has deemed it unadvisable to include the Livonian stamps, which have an independent history of their own, with the Russian locals.

Of the varieties springing from differences in paper, perforation, colour, &c., this is hardly the place to speak. That many such varieties may be distinguished is probable. As to the design, the form of impression generally adopted—the lithographic—fa-

vours the multiplication of varieties arising from trifling differences in detail. M. Moens has already, with his usual keenness of observation, detected several of these differences, but the writer is inclined to doubt whether they will ever attract much interest. In roughly-printed or lithographed stamps variations become the rule rather than the exception, and specimens which differ from the normal type only by the presence of an additional comma, or the malformation of a letter, have but little philatelic importance.

In like manner, variations in the shade of colour can hardly be treated with much respect, though of course distinct colours of the same value must be collected. The existence of certain values in two different colours is not due to any printer's freak, or to an accidental running short of the colour first issued. In such cases each colour has its particular use; one serves for the stamps on letters from the town to the district, and the other for letters from the district to the town.

Very few of the Russian locals are perforated; the Cherson and the lately-issued Podolsk are, we believe, the only issues which "show their teeth." It is probable, however, seeing that the Podolsk, Bronnitsi, Kolomna, and Bogorodsk stamps are all printed at Moscow by the same person, that the next supplies for the three latter districts will also be perforated. Meanwhile it may be mentioned that the first Livni was issued with scalloped edges, which gave it quite the appearance of a bobbin label. The unusual shape of many of these locals is indeed one of the first things to strike an observer. We have small upright lozenges, e.g., Pskoff and the new Borovitchi; large transverse lozenges, as witness the Egorieffsk; large rectangles, such as the Ekaterinoslav and Kiriloff; and small rectangles in the Demiansk and Tamboff. In short, taken altogether, these stamps combine in their designs, as in their history, the greatest possible interest to philatelists. They offer a vast field for study, and the writer trusts that among his readers not a few will be found to pursue the investigation indicated, rather than commenced in the present rudimentary introduction.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, at which all the European Powers and the United States will be represented, is to meet at Berne, on the 1st of September, for the purpose of concluding a common postal treaty.

THE HOUR, among its other conservative tendencies, seems to avoid at least one form of modern innovation. The editor's office is situated in Fleet Street, and the printing-office is in St. John Street. Some papers would connect the two by a telegraphic wire or pneumatic tube, but our young contemporary reverts to the old posting system. Each evening a messenger on horseback, booted and spurred, stands in a neighbouring lane, and at his side are his saddle-bags. Every now and then some one emerges from the office with a parcel of "copy;" it is hurriedly given to the messenger, crammed into the bag, and off he goes at the top of his speed, like Tam o' Shanter.

OCEAN POST CARDS. — The Postmaster-General at Washington, according to *The New York Herald*, has at present under consideration a scheme for a postal card convention between England and the United States, by which the cards would be delivered in either country for three cents. The only obstacle in the way now is the demand of the steamship companies, who receive two cents, and urge that they are underpaid. The postage would be divided as follows: one cent to Great Britain, one cent to the United States, and one cent to the mail packet company. The new Philadelphia steamship line has signified its readiness to carry the mails at the lowest rate. The postmaster-general has authority to make the convention without reference to Congress, so that the old idea of ocean penny postage may be approximately realised in a few months, and this will be a long step towards the lowering of the rates for letters. — *Pall Mall Gazette*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"MR. OVERY TAYLOR'S CONTINUATION."

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, — With regard to the letter which appeared in your last, on the above subject, permit me to say that the Editor of *The Philatelist* may well be excused for the expression, seeing that, in noticing my "Paper for Beginners," he was really referring to a *rudimentary* article.

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

OVERY TAYLOR.

CURRENT CHILIAN ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, — Since last I wrote you, another variety in the envelope line has appeared — the 10 c., pale blue on white. Perhaps the following list of dates on which the various envelopes appeared may be of use to you:

5 c. white, note size ($5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{5}{16}$ in.)	} Nov. 22, 1872.
5 c. blue, do. do.	
5 c. buff, do. do.	
10 c. blue, } large size ($6\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{9}{16}$), middle of Jan., 1873.	
10 c. buff, }	
15 c. white, }	
5 c. white, }	} do. ($5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{5}{16}$), end of Jan., 1873.
5 c. blue, }	
5 c. buff, }	
10 c. white, do. ($6\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{9}{16}$), end of April, 1873.	

From this you will see that all that is required to complete the sets of the values in circulation, is the 15 c. on buff and on blue, as it is not at all likely that the 10 c., 15 c., and 20 c. will be issued of two sizes.

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

L. W. MEYER.

Valparaiso.

THE LA GUAIRA STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR, — I fancy your correspondent, "G. H. H.," must have made a mistake in his letter of last month. I said distinctly that the forgeries of the *reales* series were all of the first type (circ. perf. 13, small figures in corners); and the stamps he describes are of the second type, and are, therefore, in no danger of being mistaken for forgeries. In the *medio real rose* (first type), the upper limbs of C, H, and E, in CABELLO, are considerably larger, thicker, and more prominent than the lower ones, in all the copies which I have ever seen; and in the *dos reales*, though not quite so marked, they are sufficiently apparent. In the second type, with which the forgeries have nothing to do, these peculiarities do not appear. I fancy, therefore, his stamps must be of the second type. He speaks of the 6 being in the centre of a "Maltese cross." Now, the 6 is in the centre of a cross (not a Maltese cross, but a cross *pattée*, which differs considerably from a Maltese cross), but the said cross is so very rude that it is much better described as a square, with a round or oval dot in each corner. In all the copies of the first types which I possess, or have seen, the 6 touches the dot in the left-hand bottom corner; or, if your correspondent will have it so, it touches that part of the cross *pattée* where the bottom arm joins the left-hand one. For the guidance of non-heraldic readers, I may mention that the cross *pattée* is formed of four triangles placed point to point; whereas the Maltese cross resembles four arrow-heads, similarly placed, or four fishes' tails, joined at the parts where they have been separated from the body.

With regard to the article by "Etonia," I would beg to call attention to the fact that most of the inverted water-marks mentioned have been already described either by myself or "G. W. B." in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., pp. 103, 119, and 134.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT B. EARÉE.

The Curatage, Walter Belchamp,
Sudbury.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. C., London. — We should think Moens' new catalogue would be about the best.

QUESTOR, Norwich. — Your stamp is simply a cut specimen of the impressed 1 groschen German envelope.

B. S.; A. H. L.; G. H. H.; F. H. S.; J. S. DANIELS. — To these correspondents our best thanks are due, for the information contained in their letters.

A. G. — Your letter of 3rd inst., though it contains no absolutely new information, is very creditable, as showing that habit of careful observation, without which no real advance can be made in the study of stamps.

L. W. MEYER, Valparaiso. — From our June number you will have perceived that we possess positive official information as to the names of the personages represented on the new Argentine stamps. Accept our best thanks for the intelligence your letter contains, of which we have made use in the present number.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

La Gazette des Timbres.—The June number, which completes the first volume, reached us towards the end of July. Its contents are of an unusually varied and interesting character—a fact which increases our regret, on reading the announcement on the last page, that the *Gazette* is to be temporarily discontinued, with a view to subsequent reissue in another and cheaper form. Taken as a whole, the twelve numbers which have appeared have hardly come up to our expectations, there being in many parts a repellent dryness in the style; but the last of the twelve is much superior in its attractiveness to the rest. It opens with an account of the Alaska parchment money, mistaken by a traveller for postage stamps, and to which we elsewhere allude. The next article, entitled “The American Private (or Proprietary) Stamps,” is a reply to the arguments which have been advanced in the pages of this and other journals, against the collection of the Yankee physic stamps. It is a well-written defence, but, borrowing an expression it contains, it seems to us “its reasoning is more specious than true.” The learned doctor urges that the stamps which are fabricated in the government *ateliers* for the account of private persons—who, in addition to the printing expenses, pay a “royalty” of one cent per 25 cents to the government—are really fiscal labels. We cannot see that they are such, except in the very narrowest sense of the word. They are, above and before all other things, mere pictorial advertisements, designed for the purpose, literally and figuratively, of giving a certain *cachet* to the wares to which they are affixed. The proof lies in the fact that the government has issued a series of Internal Revenue stamps of its own, for the purpose of denoting the payment of the duty on patent medicines; and if the proprietors of such medicines prefer to have special stamps of their own engraved, it is simply with a view to the embellishment of their bottles and boxes. In a matter of this kind collectors of fiscal stamps will look to the *leading intention* of the issuing person or company, and will hardly be misled by shallow argu-

ments based on the fact that the impression of the stamps involves a payment to the state. As Dr. Magnus himself says, with reference to the observation of one of our contributors, that, on the principles enunciated by the *Gazette*, railway tickets ought also to be collected, as being, in fact, a kind of stamp, “good sense, without difficulty, makes a distinction between them.” Very true, and good sense must not be altogether disregarded in the pursuit of logical sequence to an end, which—seeing that it would involve the purchase, in this instance, of no end of pills and mixtures—may well be termed a bitter one. The learned doctor, in the course of his discussion of this very question of the difference between railway tickets and stamps, says, “The stamp which indicates the payment of a tax is a kind of *paper money*, which circulates, and which is purchased, like the precious metals. Adherence, and the cancellation which follows, whatever may be its nature, destroys this attribute, withdraws the stamp from circulation, and transforms it into a receipt or discharge.” But, judged by this rule, how does it fare with his favourite proprietary stamps? Do they ever circulate? Would they be accepted as money, if even they were allowed to circulate? Decidedly not; their owner can do nothing with them but stick them on his packages; and until he does so stick them, would be very sorry to part with any of them; for were he to do so, they might find their way into the hands of some rival quack. Once on the pill-boxes, they become technically transformed into so many receipts, and in reality begin to perform the service for which they were created. Hence they are never stamps, in the proper acceptation of the word, and the faith in the future professed by our contemporary must be great, if it includes the belief that his opinions will ever make much progress on this side of the channel. That he feels their weakness is evident from the fact that he finds himself obliged to reinforce them by pleading the uselessness of collecting rainbow proofs of postage stamps—a practice which we are far from defending,—and also by referring, in proof of the omnivorous tastes of English collectors, to our publishers’

advertisements of packets of flowers, animals, monograms, &c., which it has not entered into anyone's mind to assert should form part of a philatelic collection. The utility of collections of flowers, pictures, or other objects, which it may please our publishers to advertise, has really nothing whatever to do with the question; and Dr. Magnus must have a peculiar notion of editorial responsibility, if he thinks that it is engaged in respect of the advertisements which fill the fly-sheet. Dr. Magnus asks us to admit that he is consequent with his premises, and declares that he is satisfied with being logical. We cannot make the admission he requires. Though it concerns us but very slightly, we cannot acknowledge that the physis labels are, in the fair acceptation of the word, fiscals. In collecting them, Dr. Magnus is true at most to the letter, but certainly not to the spirit of his own arguments; and philately itself—we say it with all respect to our learned *confrère*—suffers in the esteem of many by the spectacle of the excess to which, in consequence of the dreadful logical exigencies by which it is surrounded, the study of “stamps” conducts.

Thus much, then, for the medicine tickets, which form the subject of Dr. Magnus's spirited, but, to our mind, inconclusive article. To it succeeds a further instalment of his *Petite* or “Minor Gazette,” in which the instructions for mounting the Austrian emissions are completed. Then follows the usual *Chronique*, to which we were indebted for sundry items of information published in our last; and the number winds up with a reference to a rare Hawaiian 2 c. stamp, and a short but interesting article on the Persian stamps, which, considering the importance of its contents, we have taken the liberty to reprint. In taking leave of our *confrère*, it is with the hope that, ere long we may have the pleasure of meeting him again under another garb, and bearing a title which will not oblige him to make excursions into the realm of fiscal and physis stamps.

The Stamp.—Having sped the parting, we are now free to welcome the coming guest, if the term can be applied to a journal which has already made good its footing among us

by the issue of three fortnightly numbers. It is a compact and well-written eight-page publication, rather larger than *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, containing a great deal of information. In proof of the publishers' desire to keep their readers well informed, we may mention that the new English 3d. having made its appearance too late for notice in the body of the second number, a fly-sheet was added, containing a full description of it. If we must find something to complain of, we may as well run a tilt against the rather ostentatious display of linguistic knowledge, as shown in the frequent intercalation of French expressions, and the occasional dash of German and Italian phrases. In a single column we find “*che se ne vivono nel dolce far niente*,” “*par excellence*,” “*l'honneur de l'Amerique est sauvée*,” and “*sonst und jetzt*.” We must also object to the lack of care in correcting the proofs, which has led to a far too frequent recurrence of typographical stumbling-blocks. This, however, is a fault which we trust that time and practice will rectify. Meanwhile, we must do justice to the good intentions which evidently animate the publishers, and we cannot doubt but that their journal will meet with considerable support.

The contents of the paper are divided into four parts, viz., “Editorial,” “New Issues,” “Summary of News,” and “Reviews.” The “New Issues” contains the latest intelligence, together with illustrations of the greatest novelties. The “Summary of News” is made up of a number of more or less interesting items, and the article entitled “Reviews” is somewhat similar to the present one. We learn from the “Summary,” that the National Bank Note Company has sent a frame of stamps to the Vienna Exhibition, and that Germany and Holland have followed suit. We glean from the “Reviews” that Messrs. Grant, late of Birmingham, and now of Dawlish, have published a Price Catalogue, which has had the advantage of being edited by Mr. Pemberton; but where is Mr. Pemberton's own analytical catalogue all this time? The measurements of all the stamps in the journal under review are given in millimetres, and

we observe that the publishers purpose issuing a scale of French and English measures, up to 8 inches, lithographed on strong paper—a useful auxiliary which we ourselves had the intention of issuing, and which our contemporary's readers cannot dispense with.

The American Journal of Philately.—We have before us the numbers for the 1st and 15th July, respectively. The latter contains six pages, or rather—deducting the head-piece—five-and-a-half pages of letter-press. Of these, one-and-a-quarter are filled with original matter; the remainder is occupied by a reprint of "Warden's" article on the Réunion stamps, first published in these columns, to which not a word of acknowledgment of the source is appended. Such conduct disgraces a journal; for the reprint is nothing less than a dishonest appropriation of an essay with the composition of which the *A. J. P.* had nothing to do. We would fain hope the omission of all reference to this magazine was accidental, but our contemporary has but too frequently shown a disposition to make the least possible acknowledgment for taking what "isn't his'n." Turning from this disagreeable subject, we observe that the *A. J. P.* has lately received two specimens of the one cent Nicaragua; and we note the rumour that an entire series of Brazilian stamps, like the new 300 reis, is in course of preparation. The impression for July 1st is almost exclusively occupied with a list of the new official stamps for the United States, of which we make use in another place.

La Posta Mondiale.—This is the title of a journal of which the first number was issued in July last, at Florence, by P. R. de Torres. As far as we can judge, it appears to be a well-written publication; and its only defect, in our eyes, is that it treats of fiscal stamps, and accords to them a too prominent place. The contents of the opening number are made up of an "Introduction," a "Programme," a "Chronicle of the Month," and a "Review of Philatelic Journals." Under the heading "Jerusalem" the editor treats of the stamp of which an illustration was given in our July number, and supports our view that it is not an evidence of prepayment, but simply a kind of control mark struck on all

letters passing through the Jerusalem branch of the French post-office. The new Spanish, the Servian 2 para, and other novelties are duly described, together with a number of Italian revenue and municipal stamps, of which the less said the better. A sheet of lithographed designs of the principal labels mentioned accompanies the letter-press. We have only to add, in conclusion, that we hail the appearance of an Italian journal, and cordially wish it long life and prosperity.

The Philatelist.—The last two numbers afford comparatively little ground for comment. The bill of fare for each is, however, quite up to the usual standard. The second part of Dr. Magnus's essay on "The various Modes of printing Postage Stamps," is the *pièce de résistance* of the former, and a reprinted article on "post cards" in the latter is well worthy of attention. The "Spud Papers" appear in both numbers—the stamps treated of being those of the Danubian Steam Navigation Co., Shanghai, and the Dutch Indies; the descriptions are from the Rev. R. B. Earée's practised pen. In the Danubian company imitations the inscriptions touch the outside of the oval; the inner fluke of the left-hand anchor is invisible, and the cables are not plain; the 17 soldi has two dots after and one in front of the numeral; the two 10 soldi have the figure 1 printed lower than the 0. With regard to the Shanghai, the genuine, being printed from blocks, show a slightly sunken impression, so that the lettering appears more or less raised on the back of the stamps. This is not so in the forgeries, which are lithographed and perfectly smooth. In the genuine, the longest spike of the dragon's tail touches the outer line of the design (not border) in every case, whilst in the forgeries it does not touch the outer line of the design in any part. The counterfeit Dutch Indies are good imitations, but may be detected from the fact that the circle round head of king contains only 86 pearls, whilst the genuine show 87; furthermore, the lettering is not at all clear, and is thinner than in the genuine, and the barbed flukes of the anchors, which on the latter are very clearly drawn, are mere shapeless dots in the forgeries.

Le Timbre-Poste.—Like the preceding publication, this old favourite offers but little to the gleaner outside of the usual "Chronique," which, as usual, abounds in novelties. In the August number, however, we must not omit to mention the appearance of a long and carefully written paper, by Dr. Magnus, on the 1873 reprints of the first Prussian envelopes and adhesives. We must relinquish the intention we had for a moment formed of giving a *résumé* of its conclusions as far as regards the envelopes, for it would be impossible satisfactorily to sum up within our limits the distinctive points of the originals and the reprints. With regard to the adhesives the case is not the same. The stamps received by Dr. Magnus are the 4 pf., $\frac{1}{2}$ sgr., 1 sgr., 2 sgr., and 3 sgr.; and it appears that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish them from the originals, seeing that they are on paper watermarked with the laurel crown, that the plates are not worn, and therefore the impressions are equal to the original ones, and that although the paper seems somewhat thicker, no fair comparison can be made between these crisp new specimens and the oft-manipulated copies of the known originals. The colour of the paper offers, in respect of the three higher values, about the only test, and even that is an uncertain one. The old 1 sgr. have a more or less marked shade of *rose-orange*; the new are *rose-mauve*: the old 2 sgr. are dark blue; the new sky or greenish blue: the old 3 sgr. are dark orange-yellow; the new are much paler, with a tendency towards a greenish shade. As to the two lower values, printed in colour, the reprinted orange $\frac{1}{2}$ sgr. is of a more yellowish shade, whilst the 4 pf. green has less of yellow in it. However, that the stamps are reprints is certain, for only a little time back the Prussian post-office did not possess a single old stamp, and now the values of the first series are very easily obtainable.

MR. MONSELL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Postmaster-general's nineteenth report has just made its appearance; and as the doings of what may be fairly termed the parent post-office can never be without in-

terest to philatelists, a short discussion of the contents of this report can hardly be considered as a misappropriation of our space.

The march of the English administration is a steady one, untroubled by violent episodes. Year after year the number of offices goes on increasing, additional accommodation is given to important towns, and ameliorations in the service are introduced. The report before us opens with the usual enumeration of new buildings constructed during the year, and of towns to which extra mails are now despatched. The postmaster-general next refers to an error in the returns for 1871, by which the number of letters in that year was made to be 915,000,000, instead of 870,000,000. The figures for 1872 are not given, but a system of check counting has been adopted, which Mr. Monsell hopes will enable him to give the number of letters with confidence in his next report.

A little further on we find the following reference to the post card with embossed stamp.

In compliance with the urgent solicitations of the committee of wholesale and retail stationers of the United Kingdom, permission was given, under certain restrictions, for private cards impressed with a halfpenny stamp at the office of inland revenue, and serving as letters, to pass through the post like post cards issued by government. *But of this concession little use has been made.*

The report contains the usual reference to the number of wrongly addressed letters which find their way to the returned-letter office. These amounted to over three millions and a half. Eleven-twelfths of the total number were either reissued with corrected addresses, or returned to senders—a very satisfactory result. Upwards of 15,000 letters were posted last year without any address, and nearly 600,000 newspapers, addressed to foreign parts, were stopped in the post-office and destroyed because they were insufficiently stamped, many people believing the halfpenny newspaper stamp to be postally omnipotent.

Under the heading "Foreign and Colonial Posts" we find the following interesting observations:—

It has long been the wish of the British post-office to see a low and, as nearly as practicable, *uniform* rate

established throughout the whole of Europe; and I shall much rejoice when this object is attained. The rate as between the United Kingdom and several European countries has already been reduced to threepence, but the *European rate which the British office would prefer is twopence*.

We trust that in time the idea of a uniform rate, which originated, we believe, with Prince Bismarck, will take effect; and it is something to see the influence of the British office thrown into the scale in its favour. Certainly the rate proposed by Mr. Monsell could hardly be lower.

We are glad to find that our postal revenue has more than recovered from the effects of the introduction of post cards, and the reductions in the tariff. The net revenue last year was £1,524,000; viz., £1,505,000 from postage, and £19,000 from money-orders, being an increase on the net revenue from postage in 1871 of £260,500! Thus the elasticity of the service and its recuperative power are fully proved. The extension of the benefits of postal intercourse which take place every year is strikingly shown in the fact that the expenditure in 1872 nearly equalled the gross revenue in 1863.

The postmaster-general winds up his report with a bit of chit-chat, which he calls "Miscellaneous," and of which the following are the leading items:—

Intimation having been received on the afternoon of the 3rd December last, from the gas company supplying the chief office, that a supply could not be guaranteed for more than a few hours, in consequence of the stokers having struck work, steps were immediately taken for lighting the sorting offices in this building, as also in the branch offices in the Eastern Central District, with candles (entailing an order for a ton weight); arrangements being likewise made to provide lanterns and torches for the mail-cart drivers, and oil lamps for lighting the post-office yard.

Such provision had to be continued during the next three days; and in the evening the sorting offices presented the novel appearance of being lighted up with 2,000 candles. The total expense during the four days of the strike was upwards of £58, but on the other hand there was a saving in the consumption of about 160,000 feet of gas, leaving a balance of loss of about £27.

As might be expected, the post-office receives many letters of inquiry on matters with which it can have no possible concern; and a curious collection might be made of the letters thus arriving in the course of any year. One of the strangest that have lately reached the department was from a French gentleman, who having, as he said, no relations or friends in London, wrote to ascertain whether the English law permitted a foreigner to marry a young lady, who was of age, against her father's will!

As an illustration of the variety of interests which the post-office is called upon to consider, it may be mentioned, that when the question of affording a daily post to a

small place in Ireland, which up to that time had had only a tri-weekly post, was under consideration, a gentleman called upon the postmaster to urge that things might be left as they were, stating, as the reason of his application, that he had heard that in order to give the additional accommodation it would be necessary to alter the hours of running the mail-car; an alteration which would not, he said, suit himself and some other gentlemen who were in the habit of using the mail-car when going to fish on a lake near the mail-car route!

Previously to last July, it had been the rule of the service for local time to be observed for certain purposes at country post-offices; but, so far as England, Wales, and Scotland are concerned, this rule was then abolished; so that Greenwich time alone is now kept at all the post-offices in Great Britain.

After the report comes the usual dry brigade of tables, which we must say are by no means inviting. We were struck, however, by a fact evidenced by the last appendix in the series, namely, that the net revenue of the post-office in 1838 amounted to £1,659,510, subject to certain deductions, which could not then have been very important, for the cost of the packet service, and of stationery. We certainly had no idea that the returns at that date were as important as they are now.

THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. KAMKE.

(Continued from page 124.)

WHEN Don Luis ascended the throne, the event was naturally marked by a new issue of stamps. We come therefore to the

ISSUE OF 1862.

Col. imp. on white, imperf.

PAPER,—as before.

GUM.—Yellowish white.



DESIGN.—Embossed profile of Don Luis to left, in pearled circle, or oval. Engraver's name (F. B. F.) in sunken letters, as before, except on the 10 and 50 reis, where it is embossed.

LIST.

5 reis, reddish chocolate, v. pale to dark.	} 90 pearls, in circle.
5 „ chocolate, v. pale to very dark.	
5 „ very dark rich chocolate-brown.	

10 reis, orange-yellow, v. pale to medium.	} 88 pearls, in octagon.
10 " golden orange, v. medium to dark.	
25 " very pale rose, almost pink.	} 83 pearls, in oval.
25 " rose, v. pale to dark.	
25 " rose-carmine, v. pale to very dark.	
50 " yellow-green, v. pale to medium.	} 74 pearls, in oval.
50 " green, medium.	
50 " bluish Prussian green, dark.	
100 " lilac, v. very pale to medium.	} 82 pearls, in oval.
100 " reddish lilac, v. medium to dark.	
100 " lilac, with shade of violet, v. medium to dark.	

Of the 5 reis of this issue there are two varieties—one having the figure 5 very near the border, and at some distance from REIS; and the other having the 5 near to REIS, and further from border. Whether these are two separate types or not, I do not know. Both varieties have the 90 pearls.

ISSUE OF 1866.

Col. on white, imperf.

After a circulation of about four years, these stamps were suppressed in favour of a new set bearing the name of the country. The new stamps were engraved by Mr. C. Weiner, who has favoured His Majesty with a portrait very different from that designed by Freire. The chief peculiarity consists in the hair

being brushed to a great height above the forehead, which has the effect of dwarfing the features in a most absurd manner.

PAPER.—White wove, rather thicker than before.

GUM.—White.

DESIGN.—Embossed profile of Don Luis to left, in pearled oval; legend, PORTUGAL CORREIO. Beneath the portrait of the king are the initials of the engraver (C. W.) in large embossed letters. All the values are from one matrix, having 65 pearls in oval; value in label with curved and rounded ends.

LIST.

5 reis, greyish black.
5 " deep black.
10 " yellow.
10 " orange, v. medium to dark.
20 " bistre, v. pale to very dark.
25 " rose, v. pale to dark.
50 " dull yellowish green, v. medium to dark.
50 " bluish green, v. medium to dark.

80 reis, reddish orange, v. medium to dark.
80 " orange-vermilion, v. pale to very dark.
100 " dark lilac.
120 " dull blue, v. pale to dark.
120 " bright blue, v. medium to very dark.

ISSUE OF 1867.

The next year the improvement of perforation was introduced, and the shades of colour a little varied; a new value was also issued.

Col. on white, perf. 13.

LIST.

5 reis, greyish black.
5 " deep black.
10 " yellow.
10 " orange-yellow.
10 " vermilion-orange.
20 " bistre, v. pale to medium.
20 " yellow-bistre, pale to dark.
20 " bistre, with shade of olive, dark.
25 " dull rose, v. very pale to dark.
25 " bright rose, v. medium to dark.
25 " bright rose-carmine, v. medium to very dark.
50 " very pale bluish green.
50 " dull green.
50 " yellow-green, v. pale to very dark.
80 " vermilion-orange, v. very pale to medium.
80 " orange-vermilion, v. medium to dark.
100 " pale lavender.
100 " lilac, v. pale to dark.
100 " dull mauve, v. pale to medium.
120 " bright greenish blue, v. medium to dark.
120 " dull chalky blue, v. very pale to dark.
120 " ultramarine, v. medium to dark.
120 " royal blue, medium to very dark.
240 " reddish lilac, v. medium to dark.
240 " dull mauve, v. pale to medium.
240 " bright mauve, v. pale to very dark.

ISSUE OF 1871.

Col. on white, perf. 13.

"The cry is, Still they come!" In 1871, the authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, issued another set, of a different type. In the new stamps, the labels containing value have straight square ends; there are 61 pearls in the oval; and the engraver's name has disappeared. But the chief difference is, as before,

in the portrait of the king. The engraver has given him a Victor Emmanuel moustache, and a small imperial (in the old type, the moustache curls downwards, and is scarcely visible, and there is no imperial); while

the hair is brushed plainly back from the forehead, showing a nice intellectual-looking face, to which our illustration hardly does justice.

LIST.

5 reis,	greyish black.
5 "	deep black.
10 "	chalky yellow, v. pale to dark.
10 "	orange-yellow, v. pale to dark.
20 "	yellowish bistre, v. pale to dark.
20 "	bistre, with shade of olive, v. medium to dark.
25 "	dull rose, v. pale to medium.
25 "	bright rose carmine, v. medium to very dark.
50 "	bright yellowish green, v. medium to dark.
50 "	dull green, v. pale to dark.
80 "	very bright orange-red.
80 "	dull orange-red, v. pale to very dark.
100 "	pale dull lilac.
100 "	reddish lilac.
120 "	dull blue, v. pale to dark.
120 "	bright blue, v. medium to very dark.

I have not yet seen the 240 reis of this type. A set of these stamps exists unperforated, but they were issued for a collector, I believe, so I shall not catalogue them.

Before I conclude, I wish to give a hint to my readers concerning the stamps of these last two types. The perforation is at a considerable distance from the outer edge of the design, so that a dishonest dealer might easily cut off the perforations, and sell the stamps as unperforated ones. Therefore, let those who are on the look out for any of the unperforated ones also look out that the stamps sold to them have a good broad margin. *Verb. sap.*

STAMP COLLECTING IN CHILI.

BY FULANO.

STAMP collecting has been known here for more than twelve years, and, as is generally the case, it had its birth in a school. It was in 1860, if I mistake not, that I first heard that the boys at a large English school established here (Valparaiso) had discovered something new that was collectable—in addition to coins, pens, and wine and beer-bottle labels—viz., postage stamps. From that date up to the present, collecting has been on the increase, so that to-day there is not a single school of which a respectable portion does not collect stamps.

I am sorry, however, to add that, with a

very few exceptions, collectors are all boys. I know of some who, on leaving school, have shelved their collections and never again looked at them, collecting being considered here as only fit for juveniles. It is a sight, of a morning, to see boys on their way to the public schools, in groups, comparing and discussing their stamps, which are pasted in small note or copy-books, sheets of paper sewn together, or else carried loose in their pockets.

It is not surprising, therefore, such being the advocates of philately, that scientific collecting is quite unknown. Paper, perforation, and watermarks are nowhere; envelopes are cut, and, in the majority of cases, post cards have to undergo the same operation. Imagine my horror, when, one day, having presented a young friend of mine with one of the handsome Cingalese cards, he deliberately tore out the stamp before I could prevent it, and threw the remainder away! Envelopes are not even cut square, every particle of blank paper being clipped away.

The only case (which is not too common) in which the stamps are found in their proper order is in collections which are kept in prepared albums; even then, when we come to new issues, for which no spaces are marked, we are quite in the dark, owing to the absence of catalogues or any other guides, the rule being then that the first comer gets the first place in the corresponding page.

Fiscal and medicine stamps are, of course, collected, and, as quack medicines are much used, the United States page is usually a very brilliant one, not taking into account the dirtiness of the specimens themselves, the consequence of the fingering which they must undergo in counting, comparison, &c.

I once saw in a collection a cuatro reales of Costa Rica, black, which I had also seen in another place, viz., in a German newspaper, serving as illustration to a stamp advertisement, the fortunate possessor of the specimen being fully aware of the fact! This will show what collecting was then, but I am happy to say that it is a little better now.

Though there have been, and still are, dealers in stamps (after a fashion), and of

whom I shall speak further on, it is no very easy matter for the majority of collectors to procure them. The usual mode is to get them from commercial friends; and for the less privileged, from some office *mozo*, or else by going to the post-office on mail days to peep over people's shoulders while they read their letters, in order to get a sight of the stamps, and then to pester them with their *hagame el favor de darme los sellitos, señor*.

The following freaks I am afraid will hardly be credited. During the war with Spain, in 1865-6, it was the custom among patriotic *chilenos* to place the stamps of that country with the queen's head upside down! Those who collected only used stamps, when they came across an unused one, would instantly make a pen-stroke on it, as if the mark which made it useless were a proof that it was a "used" stamp. All the foregoing I am able to state from personal experience, having seen a great many collections in my time.

The first time I saw foreign stamps offered for sale here was about five years ago, when one day a new signboard with the following words caught my eye: "Sellos para Colecciones," and "Stamps for Collections," on either side of an eagle holding a bundle of cigarettes in its beak (for the dealer in stamps was also a "*cigarrero*."). I entered the place, and asked to see the stamps. From under the counter a little cardboard box was produced, which contained the whole stock-in-trade, consisting entirely of used stamps, with the prices marked on the back, which, I remember, were higher or lower, according to the look of the stamps. At present there are two "dealers," the stock of one of whom may be seen in his window, in a little heap; the other hangs out a little sheet of paper headed *Sellos para Colecciones*, on which are stuck half-a-dozen dirty used stamps of the commonest kind. The way the stamps are procured is, by sending some one to the post-office to pick up or beg for whatever he can. I forgot to mention that there was once a shop at which really good stamps could be procured, both used and unused, and therefore evidently imported in letters, instead of on them. I have bought many a fine stamp there, and at reasonable prices too.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—The country which furnishes almost the only interesting intelligence which appears in the daily papers is also the one to which we must look for the greatest novelty in the stamp way. The pretender, whose "on to Madrid" march seems destined to be interminable, has forestalled his accession to the Spanish throne by the issue of postage stamps bearing his effigy. It is some months since the report of an emission obtained currency, but the actual type differs considerably from the apocryphal designs previously described. We annex an en-

graving of it, and may add that no reasonable doubt can be entertained as to the fact of its being in circulation in the mountain districts, which are dominated by the legitimist bands. The portrait of Don Carlos—the first we have seen—is a pleasing one. The

general disposition combines boldness with simplicity. As for the execution, that, it appears, leaves much to be desired, the stamps being only rough lithographs, struck off at Bayonne, or, as some assert, at Bordeaux. Our Belgian *compère* expresses some surprise that the value should be expressed in reales; but the new currency is of such recent date, and the old is so frequently used in calculating, that Don Carlos may be excused for not giving in his adhesion to the decimal system. Besides, if he succeeded, would he not regulate everything according to the old *régime*?

The stamp above represented is printed in pale blue on white wove paper, and is unperforated; a companion, value 2 rs., bearing the full-face portrait of Don Carlos, and struck in green, is likely to make its appearance.

To the Amadeus series we have to add a 40 c. de peseta, blue.

Nothing is yet said about official cards, and meanwhile the unofficial issues of Don M. P. de Figueroa and his imitators remain current. When describing these cards, the *Timbre-Poste* took occasion to comment on the funeral

appearance of the sombre frame, with its crosses at the angles, to which Don Figueroa wittily replies, that the frame and the crosses have a meaning, which he reads thus:—

- + Here lie the Spanish Finances.
- + Here lies Military Discipline.
- + Here lies Public Order.
- + Here lie the Rights of Property.

“The black frame,” he adds, “reminds us Spaniards of the mourning we wear in our hearts, for we are watching the funeral of poor Spain.”

Our learned friend, not satisfied, however, with introducing these significant post cards into circulation, has also gone the length of transplanting our English official cards into Spain. We have before us a halfpenny post card, which in the first place passed through the English post. Across the back Don Figueroa has written a communication, and across the front has added his correspondent's address. This card, with an adhesive 5 c. Spanish attached to the upper left corner, passed through the Spanish post, and was delivered in due course. Another English card, not previously used in this country, was served in a similar manner; it reached destination with the Spanish adhesive attached to it, obliterated, and the English impressed stamp untouched. This employment in one country of another country's emissions is probably unique in its way.

PRUSSIA.—It would appear that a private company has been carrying letters, cards,



and printed matter in Berlin since the 1st June, and has issued a stamp and a post card, both of the value 2 pf. We had no great confidence in this announcement when it first reached us, for it seemed to us that if, as we suppose, the postal laws are the same in Germany as in most countries, no interference with its monopoly would be permitted. However, the stamp of the company seems to be so generally believed in that we must presume it to be a really authentic emission. The inscription simply says DESPATCH OF PRINTED MATTER, and it is possible that in respect of printed matter the infringement of the postal

monopoly may have been sanctioned; but the *Gazette des Timbres* says that, *malgré* the inscription, correspondence, of no matter what kind, in the town and environs, may be sent by this local post, and the statement is to some extent borne out by the appearance of the post card. The *Gazette* gives as an *on dit* that the decree of concession is dated the 1st May, 1873, and that the post began its service on the 27th of the same month. The director is said to be a Mr. J. J. Schreiber, formerly in business as an agent in Paris.

The post card is a large buff rectangle, with an impression in black from the die of the adhesive 2 pf. at the top, in the right corner, and trade advertisements running down (not across) the face. The adhesive stamp, we have omitted to state, is struck in black on thin carmine paper, and perforated.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Toropetz* (Pskoff).—The annexed engraving is that of the envelope described two years since. The building depicted, which has something of a lighthouse about it, must surely have a history worth the ascertaining. The impression is in black on plain white wove paper.



Orgnieff (Bessarabia).—From Brussels we learn that two stamps have appeared for this district, which forms part of the territory (not government) of Bessarabia.

TURKEY.—We announced a long time since that the Constantinople local post had been re-established; but instead of being farmed out, it has been managed by the government department, which for three years has been content to use the stamps of the general series for the local service. A new emission, specially intended for the capital, is reported by M. Moens to be on the point of making its appearance; but without waiting for it, the authorities have surcharged four of the existing values with the word *CHEÏR*, signifying “local,” or “local service.” Of these, the first two are the 10 paras violet and 1 piastre yellow; the other two, 20 paras brown and 1 piastre brown, belong to the unpaid-letter set.

UNITED STATES.—The official stamps came into use on the 1st July, and are as follows:—

Agricultural Department.—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, and 30 cents, yellow.

Executive.—1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 cents, carmine.

Interior.—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, vermilion.

Justice.—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, violet.

Treasury.—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, deep brown.

Post Office.—Numeral of value, OFFICIAL above, and STAMP below, in oval white centre; POST OFFICE DEPT. above the oval, U. S. and value below.

1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, black.

State.—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, green. Profile of Seward in oval, DEPARTMENT OF STATE above, U. S. OF A. in lower angles.

2, 5, 10, and 20 dollars, head black, frame green.

War.—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, carmine.

ENVELOPES.

War.—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, red on white, lemon, and salmon paper.

Post Office.—In solid oval disk, OFFICIAL—3—

STAMP; POST OFFICE DEPT. above, and value in words below in oval frame; and U. S. in small disks let into the frame.

2, 3, and 6 cents, black on lemon.

We have received a specimen of the 3 cents, here figured. Besides the

stamp the envelope bears sundry inscriptions, including a form of address.

It will be understood that, except when a special description is given, the central medallions are the same as those on the corresponding stamps of the general series, and that the name of the department is in every instance inscribed above the medallion. The position of the letters U. S. varies; in the Executive and War sets they are found in the upper corners; in the other depart-

ments, except that of Justice, in the lower corners; from the Justice series they are absent. The sets are not all complete; the Executive only numbers five, and the Agricultural seven values; and the 7 c. is found in only three of the sets. The difficulty respecting the colours which we foresaw would occur, has arisen. The 10 c. of the Executive, the 24 c. of the Justice, and the 1 cent of the War are apparently in the same colour as their congeners in the series for general use, and two departments, according to *The American Journal of Philately*, from which we take the above list, have only one colour—red—between them. Our American contemporary does not believe that the system of a special series for each department can last, and we ourselves must admit we cannot see anything to recommend it. Probably it will not remain long in vogue.

FINLAND.—The new card, in its principal features, resembles its predecessor, but the inscriptions have all been changed. In our correspondence columns will be found a letter explaining the purport of the new inscriptions.

BELGIUM.—In our June number we gave an engraving of the design for the new Belgian envelope stamp. We have now specimens before us, and we are sorry to find that they scarcely bear out the encomium we then passed upon the grand features of the design. As we then stated, the border has no claim to originality, either in conception or design; and the effect of white relief of the king's head on the green ground is marred by the prominence given to the engraver's initials, which appear in letters in white relief. We also said that "the effect must necessarily depend on the execution." This latter leaves much to be desired, but we think a great portion of the want of effect is due to the poorness of the paper employed. It is thin, plain, white wove, not quite so good as that employed for the first series of the Austrian envelopes.

ALASKA.—Some time since we quoted a rumour, to which currency was first given by our Parisian contemporary, to the effect that stamps were being used in this territory; this statement was inaccurate, but, as the *Gazette* now shows, had a foundation in

fact. Owing to the scarcity of coin in that out-of-the-way region, payments were made, under the Russian rule, by means of small inscribed squares of parchment, of a conventional value, ranging from 5 kopecs to 50 roubles. These bits of parchment had a hole pierced through the upper corner, so that they might be strung on a string. These were the labels which a passing traveller mistook for postage stamps. They were all called in and destroyed upon the transfer of the territory to the United States.

SCHAUMBURG-LIPPE.—This unpretending label is an official stamp, hailing from the above-named small German state. The in-



scription takes the form of a notice: "This letter does not pay postage, pursuant to notice No. 8 of the government of the principality of Schaumbourg-Lippe." It is struck in black, on green, and

other states are said to employ similar stamps. Schaumbourg-Lippe was one of the states formerly served by the Thurn and Taxis post, and now included in the Imperial dominions. The mere emission of the above stamp does not entitle it to be reckoned among the list of postage stamp issuing countries, this official label being, in fact, nothing more than a label employed by the executive of a state which has no postal service of its own.

FERNANDO PO.—It is a long time since an apocryphal stamp for this Spanish colony was chronicled. No satisfactory proof of its existence has ever been given, and most collectors have long since classed it with the series of myths or fabrications. A genuine provisional has, however, now made its appearance, being no other than the 10 c. Cuba, type 1871, surcharged **FERNANDO PO** in a half circle, in black capitals, and with a large crown below surcharged in blue; the latter, say Messrs. Grant & Co., from whose circular we quote the intelligence, may be obliteration, but the black lettering can only point to one conclusion.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—We copy the following from the current *Timbre-Poste*. "Two new stamps have just been forwarded to us.

They bear the effigy of Amadeus, of the type already known, and are printed on white paper."

25 cent de peseta, mauve.

1 peseta, 25 cent, bistre.

These stamps have been issued during the present year, as well as the 12 c. de p. blue, and 62 c. de p. carmine-rose. Those issued in 1872 were as follows:—

12 c. de p., rose.

16 " ultramarine, dull blue.

62 " mauve.

1 p., 25 c., blue on flesh.

SERVIA.—The 2 para stamp—printed in black on white wove paper and unperforated—proves to differ from the preceding type principally in the portrait, which is certainly a grotesque one, as our readers will perceive. The date of emission was the 1st/13th of June.

JAPAN.—We annex an engraving of the new 4 sen rose which, while differing in detail, is essentially of the same design as the other

low values of the current series. We may here mention that a postal convention between Japan and the United States has been signed, which, if it does not necessitate the issue of new values, will at

any rate render more common those now in use.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The permission granted to the public to deliver their own envelopes to the post-office to be stamped with the impressed stamp, has been extended to newspaper bands and post cards! Here we light on another fruitful source of valueless varieties. Already the newspaper bands are found on green, rose, lilac, white, straw, and azure; and the cards on blue, green, grey, white, flesh, straw, and rose. At the risk of being charged with unnecessary reiteration, we beg to express the hope that these unofficial varieties will find no favour with English collectors. There is nothing to prevent their multiplication to an almost

indefinite extent, and they offer really no interest from a philatelic point of view.

MONTENEGRO.—Of the forthcoming type for this dependent principality we were able to give full particulars in our last. We have, therefore, only to supplement our description on the present occasion by the representation of the type. The actual emission of the series has not yet taken place.

HELGOLAND.—The promised post card has made its appearance, and proves to be an unstamped one of large dimensions, bearing the royal arms in the centre, with HELGOLAND on the left and POST-OFFICE on the right. Below the arms are the words POST CARD and POST KARTE, and on the right upper corner a dotted square, to receive the stamp. There are two other cards on which the inscriptions are all in German. The impression is black on buff.

NEW ZEALAND.—The sheet of the new halfpenny stamps consists of 240 impressions, and is watermarked with a line which forms a kind of frame, and by another line which cuts it down the centre. Furthermore, the letters N. Z. are repeated eleven times across, and ten times up the sheet, so that there are stamps with and stamps without watermark.

CHILI.—In our February number we described the supporters of the Chilean arms as being a condor and a horse; we were right as to the former, but Mr. L. W. Meyer, of Valparaiso, informs us that the animal which we took to be a horse, is really the "huemul"—a kind of deer.

PAHLUNPOOR.—We leave to *The Stamp* the responsibility for the following:—"Pahlunpoor (British Burmah?).—We are informed that a set of local stamps of seven values (probably the same as those for Deccan) are, or shortly will be, issued."

T. B. MORTON & Co., Constantinople.—This company, it appears, has failed. *The Stamp* contains a copy of the notification to creditors published in *The Levant Herald*, pursuant to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act of 1869. The withdrawal of the company's stamps now finds a reasonable explanation, and M. Moens can hardly take credit to himself for having brought about their suppression.

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—VI.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

(Continued from page 117)

POSTAL CARDS.

To Austria belongs the honour of introducing postal cards, an invention for the extension of cheap postal communication, which has now been adopted, not only throughout the greater part of Europe, but also in Asia and in North and South America. The "singular vagary" of the Austrian postal authorities, as we remember it was termed by one of the contemporaries of this magazine, has long lost its individuality, and may now be looked upon as a regular postal institution.

In one respect, the collection of postal cards has a decided advantage over the collection of postal envelopes. The institution is of a later date; philately, then unborn, has now become a science; what constitutes a variety, and is worthy of collection, has now become pretty well known, and it will therefore be the collector's own fault if he loses the opportunity of making something nearly perfect, at a very small cost. We say nearly perfect, for there is every symptom that the varieties will be very considerable; and the collector should use due diligence to seize upon them as they appear, or they will slide imperceptibly into the class of unattainables.

We are not certain as to the exact date of the first issue of postal cards in Austria. Dr. Magnus gives it as the 1st of October, 1869—a date which is difficult to reconcile with the fact that their appearance was chronicled in the philatelic journals of the previous month of August.

The Austrian postal cards are all type-printed in black, and for the most part upon a thin card of a pale buff colour. The stamp is lithographed in colour at the right upper corner. The size of the card is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, by about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The general design of the border is the same in all the issues, but there are small differences in the type, as also in the size of the cards, some of them having only 98 denticles in the exterior border, while others have 100.

FIRST ISSUE.

1869.—This card bears on its face the inscription CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE in an arch over the Austrian arms, and the words AN and IN, with dotted lines for the name and address of the party to whom it is sent; and in the right upper corner a stamp of the value of 2 kr., of the type then and now in use. On the back, near the top is the inscription RAUM FÜR SCHRIFTLICHE MITTHEILUNGEN (room for written communication), and below, a notice to the effect that the post-office undertakes no responsibility for the contents of the communications.

2 kr., chrome-yellow, light and dark ditto.

SECOND ISSUE.

The date of issue of this type is involved in some obscurity, but it appears probable that it took place about the month of June, 1871. This is only one among many instances, of the difficulty of assigning any fixed date to the appearance of an issue which replaces another on the gradual exhaustion of the former.*

The type and general features of the second issue are similar to those of the first; but on the face of the card, the word ADRESSE is substituted for AN. The inscriptions on the back are also wanting, and are replaced in the left upper corner by the following:—

.....am..187...

A portion of this issue is found on cards of a darker buff colour.

2 kr., chrome-yellow (shades), orange-yellow.

2 „ chrome-yellow, on darker buff-coloured card.

Later in the same year, these cards appeared with the addition of the translation of the inscription into one of the other languages in use in the empire. The type is similar to that last described, save the addition of the second language. The Austrian arms on the face are also of smaller dimensions. The inscription on the back is to the left.

KORRESPONDENCI LISTEK, for Bohemia.

CARTA DA CORRISPONDENZA, in Italian, for the Illyrian provinces.

KARTA KORRESPONDENCYJNA, for Galicia.

KAPTA KOP..... (KARTA KORRESPONDENTSIENAI),
in Ruthenian.

LISTNICA, for Slavonia.

THIRD ISSUE.

In the year 1872 another issue for Austria proper was made, as also another in the two languages. This issue differs from the previous one in this respect only—that the inscriptions on the back, instead of being towards the left upper corner, are towards the right upper corner. We believe that this variety is found throughout the whole of the five double-language cards. We have seen it in all, except the Ruthenian, and it doubtless exists in that. The colour of the card in this issue also varies, and specimens are found in darker buff.

FOURTH ISSUE.

Towards the close of the year 1872, the postal cards commenced to appear without any inscription on the back, and this issue is in actual use at the present time. The cards for Austria proper have been issued in this form, as also those for Bohemia and Galicia; and most probably the others will follow.

Austrian Foreign Offices.

Early in the present year a postal card was issued for the use of the Austrian branch offices in the Levant and in other parts of Turkey. The card is like the ordinary Austrian, and bears on its face the words CARTA DA CORRISPONDENZA in an arch over the small type of the Austrian arms, as employed for the postal cards in two languages. The stamp is 4 soldi* in rose, of the same type as that of the series of 1867, except that the value is expressed in full—*soldi*—instead of being abbreviated. There is no inscription on the back of the card which is of a pale buff colour.

* We are indebted to Mr. Max Joseph for pointing out to us an error into which we fell in our last paper. We there stated that when the change was made in the monetary system in Austria, the value of the *lira* was made equal to that of the *florin*, and was divided into 100 *soldi*. We ought to have said that the currency was rendered uniform, the *florin*, or *florina*, being adopted as the unit, the former being divided into 100 *kreuzer*, and the latter into 100 *soldi*.

* All the principal stamp magazines for last month stated that the 3d. English made its appearance on the 15th of July. We ourselves purchased it on the 9th, at a country post-office nearly 100 miles from London.

Hungary.

Towards the close of 1869 a card was issued similar to that first issued for Austria, except that the arms of Austria were replaced by those of Hungary in a shield surmounted by the crown of St. Stephen. Another was also issued of the same type, but with the inscriptions in Hungarian, instead of German; the words *CORRESPONDENZ KARTE* on the face being replaced by *LEVÉLEZESI LAP*; the inscriptions on the back being also in Hungarian. The cards are in various shades of light buff.

2 kr., chrome-yellow, light and dark.
2 kr., chrome-yellow (card of darker buff.)

SECOND ISSUE.

Early in 1871, a short time previous to the issue of the 1871 series of stamps and envelopes, a further issue of postal cards took place for Hungary. The border differs from that of the card previously described, and as a pretty accurate representation of it was given at page 88 of the ninth volume of this magazine, we will refer our readers to what was there stated. The engraving is not quite accurate in size, the card measuring $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches by 3 inches between the exterior borders. A later issue, in 1872, measures one-sixteenth of an inch less both in length and width, and the words *CZIM* and *ADRESSE* are farther apart.

Type 1871. 2 kr., dark ochre-yellow.
Type 1872. 2 kr., ochre-yellow, dark and light.

LOCAL STAMPS.

Danubian Steam Navigation Company.

These stamps, described by Mr. Overy Taylor in vol. ix., page 7, are lithographed on white unwatermarked paper. Specimens of the first issue exist which are not perforated, but whether this was the case with those first issued, or whether it was an accidental circumstance, is not very clear. One thing is clear, that the perforation 12 existed for

a few months prior to the larger perforation of $9\frac{1}{2}$.

Classification.

I.—1st April, 1866. Imperforate.

17 soldi, scarlet.

II.—Perforated 12.

17 soldi, scarlet.

III.—Perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$.

August, 1866.—10 soldi, lilac-mauve (shades).

1867—17 „ scarlet (shades).

August, 1866.—10 „ bright green (shades).

July, 1871.—10 „ scarlet.

This latter is said to be an error of printing. See vol. ix., page 162.

THE PERSIAN STAMPS.

(Reprinted from *La Gazette des Timbres*.)

ONE of our leading Parisian amateurs, to whose courtesy we owe the earliest details respecting these stamps, has kindly communicated to us a letter and packet he has received from Teheran. The following is an extract from the letter.

TEHERAN, 3RD APRIL, 1873.

I should add for your guidance that there is no post in Persia. Two years ago an originator of reforms, of whom so many are to be found in the East, persuaded the Shah that it was of essential importance that his realm should be endowed with a postal administration, and the project, like all novelties, proving very seductive to his Iranian Majesty, the stamps, of which I send you specimens, were at once prepared in Europe. Things remained, however, at a stand-still, and there exists at present in Persia no mode of receiving, assorting, carrying, or distributing correspondence, except a Russian post-office attached to the imperial consulate at Tauris. All letters for or from the European colonists are carried by the couriers of the legations.

With this letter were forwarded five stamps, of which two are on thin paper, gummed and unperforated. They were evidently printed abroad [*qy.*, at home], and are similar to the 8 already described. Both are blue, and bear the Indo-Arabic figure 4. The other three specimens are carefully printed in colours identical with those of the essays in our collection. They are struck in colour on white papers, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and gummed. The values, expressed in Indo-Arabic numerals, are as follows:—

1, violet.

2, green.

8, red.

which with the 4, blue, completes the four known denominations.

On reading the above letter a query

presents itself. Are these impressions postage stamps? Are they not rather proofs? Here we must take leave to introduce a parenthetical remark. The Persian correspondent is mistaken in stating that the fabrication of these stamps in Europe took place two years since. It was in 1865 that they were engraved at the Paris mint, as witness an article in *Le Timbrophile* of the 15th of September of that year.

This much settled, the letter testifies to the entire absence of postal relations with the exterior, and to an equal lack of arrangement for the service in the interior. Of what use, then, would postage stamps be, seeing there is not even a local service? But if the accuracy of the other details given be admitted, and we have no reason to doubt it, all these stamps must be considered essays. For the three perforated stamps, the analogy of colour, paper, and *piquage* ($12\frac{1}{2}$) with those already existing in philatelic albums, yields more than a presumption. They are, most probably, essays which have made the journey from Paris to Teheran and back. As to the others,—is the case the same? These unperforated stamps on thin paper—may they not be proofs struck off in Persia? We lean to that belief; for had they been stamps, and not proofs, nothing would have been easier to a person in the position of the writer of the letter than to purchase specimens at the post, and send them to his correspondent. If they are not perforated, it is simply because no perforating machine is to be found in Teheran. They have been divided by the scissors.

We think, then, that all these proofs are simply essays—interesting ones, especially the native impressions—because they prove that the project had been followed by a commencement of execution, as was the case with the first Paraguayan type.

However it may be, and much as we may regret the loss of our illusions, we cannot consider the question as definitively settled. The Shah's journey through Europe gives rise to a well-founded hope, that amongst many other improvements adopted in Persia we may see that of the establishment of a postal service, accompanied by the use of postage stamps.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of All Nations. Nineteenth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

It is some time since we last had a peep at our publishers' catalogue. We find the new edition substantially the same as its predecessors—its covers brilliantly yet tastefully ornamented, and its contents printed with a neatness and accuracy which would gratify the most critical eye. Good printing is far more common than it was a few years back; yet we are confident that it would be difficult to find a publication which in its typographical arrangements surpasses the modest catalogue under review. If we thus insist on the excellence of the get-up, it is simply because a catalogue is nothing if not well printed. Plunging into the subject-matter itself we find that the lists are fully brought up to date. The new Argentine 1 and 4 c. are quoted and priced, as are also the 3d. Bermuda, the Chilian envelopes, the 6d. grey-black English, the Iceland series, &c., &c. In fact, the catalogue, upon its present plan, could hardly be more complete. Its compilers do not pretend to include the secondary varieties, their work is but a mere outline compared with the analytical studies of writers such as Mr. Pemberton; but Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s catalogue is well adapted for the purpose it has to fulfil. Price lists are not so much required for advanced philatelists as for the great bulk of collectors, and to them no better work than the present could be offered. The stock which comprises, if our addition of the figures be correct, some 2900 different stamps, according to the catalogue, may be assumed to include also those minor varieties which scientific collectors make the object of their search. We fear that the price list cannot be a directly profitable speculation for our publishers; we can, however, hardly doubt but that indirectly the pains bestowed on its preparation bring their reward, and we trust it will be our privilege to review many future editions of this really useful little work.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

RAILWAY STAMPS.—It is not long since an ingenious plan for collecting a uniform railway rate by means of stamps was mooted. In Italy a railway stamp is already in use, and its possession secures the application of a "uniform" rate. In other words, the officers of the army, who have a right to a reduction of 75 per cent. on the ordinary fares, in order to obtain it must present to the railway authorities a little book in proof of their identity, which book contains the officer's portrait, and below it the adhesive stamp here

represented, which should be obliterated by the bearer's signature. On the death or retirement of an officer his book is returned to the minister of war.

POST CARDS.—From the *Revista de Correos* we learn that post cards have flourished, are flourishing, and are likely to continue to flourish in their natal country—Austria. In the first year following their emission (1st October, 1869, to 30th September, 1870) the number issued was a little under nine millions, in the next year it advanced to eleven millions, in the third year, ending 30th September, 1872, fifteen millions were distributed, and since then the monthly total of the sales has approached a million-and-a-half, which, for the whole year will give eighteen millions, or double the number sold in the first year. In France, the adoption of post cards has given rise to abuses such as followed their appearance in this country. Two trials for slander have taken place, in which the defendants have been cast in heavy damages. A report went the round of the French press last month that the post cards were to be withdrawn, as they were found not to suit the habits of the French people, and consequently were not paying their way. This statement has, however, been denied, on official authority, by the *Rappel*, which states that the post cards are fully answering the expectations formed of them, and that the number of closed letters shows no diminution. The present postmaster, M. Rampont, retires, through a political intrigue, and is succeeded by M. Libon, a member of the permanent staff, under whose rule we may look for important changes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VARIETIES OF WATERMARK.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I write to make a few additions to "Etonia's" list of errors of watermark, given in your July number. They are:—

New South Wales.—1862 rest, diademed head.

2d. blue, watermark thin 1

1d. red, " " 2

1d. " " " 2 inverted.

Victoria.—1866 rest, diademed head.

6d. blue, with "Sixpence" inverted.

For my part (and this is a matter to be decided by each collector for himself), I do not admit *reversed* watermarks, because if we do so we are bound by consistency to add to the two varieties—normal and inverted—yet *two other* varieties, making a total of four distinct sets, viz.: normal, normal reversed, inverted, and inverted reversed.

This, as I have already observed, is a matter of taste, but surely the same tolerance is not to be extended to the watermarks at the borders of sheets, on which the

stamps occasionally encroach. I refer to the parallel lines, and portions of the words VICTORIA, POSTAGE, &c. Yours, &c.,

Danformine.

E BEVERIDGE.

RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMPS AND FINLAND POST CARD

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I notice in the description of the Russian local for Ekaterinodar a slight mistake with regard to the writing of the name. The Russian name for Catherine is Ekaterina (not Katarina, which does not exist), or, to write the name with Russian characters—Екатерина. You will, therefore, see that the *z* on the stamps stands for Ekaterina, and not for the Russian *z*, which is the same as the English *z*.

In his very interesting and valuable essay, entitled, "An Introduction to the Study of the Russian Local Stamps," Mr. Taylor says that he deemed it advisable not to include the Livonian stamps with the Russian locals. I am sorry to disagree with that gentleman's opinion. I certainly do put the Wenden stamps under the Russian locals, and why should not I do so? Although these stamps were issued some years before the Russian locals, and have a history of their own, they, for that reason, do not cease to be Russian Local Stamps. Is not Livonia as much a part of the Russian empire as Tver, Rязань, Saratoff, &c.? Livonia itself does not occupy an exclusive position towards Russia, like Poland or Finland, why, therefore, should her stamps be chronicled and placed under a separate heading? If there were a separate stamp for the three Baltic provinces (Livonia, Estonia, and Curland), which together enjoy, in many respects, a different administration to that of Russia, I could understand a separate heading, but not in the present case. I put the Wenden stamps at the head of the Russian locals, and look upon them as the precursors of the latter, for who knows whether the Livonian stamps did not give the first impulse to the now long and unbroken line of Russian locals? Looking at it in this light I certainly think one cannot separate very well the one from the other.

The new Finland post card shows, as you will be aware, very little difference from the old one. The value—5 penni—is the same, so is the colour, only several shades paler. There is, further, a slight alteration in the lower inscription. On the old cards it read (in each of the three languages employed) as follows. ON THE FACE OF THE CARD THE ADDRESS HAS TO BE WRITTEN. ON THE REVERSE IT IS ALTERED TO. ON THIS SIDE THE ADDRESS HAS TO BE WRITTEN. TO RUSSIA IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE. The latter notice has probably been necessitated through people sending cards from Finland to Russia, and addressing them either in Swedish or Finnish, which, as those languages are not understood there, must have caused a great many cards to be sent back again. This may be the reason of the present issue.

I just observe that the Voiniegonok stamps are the first to bear the name of their government or county, which I think is a very noticeable feature. The lower label bears an inscription which means county or government of Tver, thus indicating that Voiniegonok is situated in it. I think the Voiniegonok stamp is, on the whole, a marked improvement on the bulk of the present locals. It is well printed, and the inscription particularly very explicit.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,

Liverpool.

JOHN STEWART.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Hanover.

THE Hanoverian stamps, although not numerous, yet offer a considerable number of varieties, and though there are no really obscure points in their history, they still require careful attention on the part of beginners.



The first stamp to appear was the one guten-groschen blue; but for descriptive purposes we had better consider it as forming part of a series composed and issued as follows:—

1850.	1 guten-groschen	blue.
1850-51.	1 "	green.
	$\frac{1}{50}$ thaler	rose.
	$\frac{1}{15}$ "	blue.
	$\frac{1}{10}$ "	yellow.

The dates, though I am not aware that any official documents in justification have been published, are generally accepted as correct, and hence it would result that the circulation of the stamps commenced shortly before the close of the reign of King Ernest Augustus.

The series includes two types, one special to the guten-groschen, the other common to the remaining values. The two types closely resemble each other, the only difference lying in the shading of the shield and the manner in which the value inscribed on it is indicated. The shield on the 1 g.gr. shows an arabesque ground, and on it is the figure 1 with the denomination running up the centre. On the other values the shield is a solid one, bearing the fractional denomination in full, in two lines, crossing from left to right.

The two guten-groschen stamps differ among themselves in an important particular. Whilst the green shows the same watermark as the other values, a well-designed oaken crown, the blue appears, and until 1870 was thought to be, "watermarkless." In that year, however, M. Moens

discovered that it bore a watermark consisting of a single-line rectangle, of nearly the same size as the stamp, and so difficult of detection that it had even escaped the notice of so keen an observer as Dr. Magnus. Thus it is pretty evident that the one g.gr. blue was the forerunner of the series, and is entitled to be classed apart as an entirely separate issue. At one time it was suspected of being a chemical changeling, but all doubts as to its genuineness have long since been dissipated, and it now properly heads the list of Hanoverian stamps, though, strangely enough, it happens that in the archives of the Hanoverian post-office no trace of a supply having been ordered can be found. When the other values were being prepared, and it was decided to print the $\frac{1}{15}$ th. on blue, it became necessary to select another colour for the 1 g.gr, and the fresh supply—on green—was struck off on the oak-crown watermarked paper.

As all the members of the series are printed in black on coloured paper, the varieties must be sought in the difference of tint; but as there is much less deviation from the normal shade in paper than in coloured printing-ink—where the precise hue depends on the proportions in which certain ingredients are found—the varieties of this issue are not very striking. The $\frac{1}{10}$ th. alone exists in two distinct shades—salmon and carmine-rose—both of which are collectable. The varieties of the other values are unimportant.

The design of these stamps, which is very finely engraved, is interesting from the fact that it is in part formed of the English arms. My youngest reader is no doubt acquainted with the connection which exists between Hanover and Great Britain, and will therefore not be surprised to meet with the old familiar lion and unicorn on the Hanoverian issues, supporting the shield and the royal crown of England. The armorial bearings differ, however, in that the arms of Hanover, on an "escutcheon of pretence," are surcharged on the centre of the shield, and the motto, instead of *Dieu et mon droit*, is a Latin one, *SUSCIPERE ET FINIRE*, which can be easily deciphered on the stamps without the aid of a magnifier. For a full description of

the Hanoverian bearings I must refer my readers to an interesting article by Fentonia, published at p. 67 of the third volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

The mode of expressing the value adopted on the first series is an unusual one, the fractional denomination occupying the centre, and the equivalent in *silber-groschen* being inscribed on the banderole on the right side. This plan has one advantage, at any rate to us philatelists,—it teaches us that 1 sgr. is the thirtieth of a thaler, and remembering that a thaler is, roundly speaking, worth three shillings, we find that the *silber-groschen* equals one penny and a fifth; the early Hanoverian issues, it may here be noticed, are the only German stamps on which the *thaler* is used to express the denomination.* As to the *guten-groschen*, an obsolete currency, 24 of them went to the thaler, their value being, therefore, just three-halfpence. It seems strange that two stamps so nearly alike in value as the 1 sgr. and 1 g.gr. should have been maintained in circulation at the same time, but such was the case for several years.

On the 15th April, 1853, the series received an accession in the shape of a 3 pf. brownish rose, of simple design: value in pfennige; name, surmounted by a crown, in a vertically-lined oval, with the fractional value—EIN DRITTEL SILBER-GROSCHEN—on a scroll, which serves as a border to the upper half of the oval, the whole in a plain single-line rectangle. Let me, in passing, call my readers' attention to the inscription of the fractional value—one-third of a *silber-groschen*,—for later on we shall meet with the same type, printed in green, and bearing the value differently expressed. This early 3 pfennige is one of

the rarest of the Hanoverians. It is distinguished from a later 3 pf. rose by its possession of the oaken-crown watermark.

The inaugural series of stamps on coloured paper, with its attendant 3 pfennige in colour on white was suppressed on the 1st January, 1856, but the types were maintained. The second series differs from the first in that it is printed on white paper, covered with an open network, running in a horizontal direction, and composed of alternate lozenges and hexagons. The impression is in black, and only the network is coloured. The values are repeated without alteration—

1 guten-groschen	green.
$\frac{1}{10}$ thaler	rose.
$\frac{1}{15}$ thaler	blue.
$\frac{1}{20}$ thaler	orange-yellow.

In the 3 pf., which accompanies this issue, the design is struck in rose, and the network varies in colour from black to olive. The $\frac{1}{10}$ th. exists with very fine network. Obliterated specimens are far from uncommon, and unused copies of the other values may also be met with showing this finer ground, but it is tolerably certain that they are mere unauthorised reprints, or rather concoctions. The 1 g.gr. green and $\frac{1}{10}$ th. rose exist with the network running vertically, and are veritable printer's errors.

The first two Hanoverian issues are characterised by the possession of a peculiar, thick, rose-coloured gum on the back, and advanced collectors point with legitimate pride to the fact that the colour of the gum suffices to distinguish an original from a reprint, in proof of the necessity for carefully studying the backs as well as the fronts of stamps. In effect, the official reprints of the 1856 series all bear a whitish gum. The first series appears not to have been reprinted, but a number of worthless proofs, intended solely for sale to collectors, were struck off in 1864. Thus we find impressions on brown, blue, and rose paper, of the fractional values $\frac{1}{10}$ th., $\frac{1}{15}$ th., and $\frac{1}{20}$ th., and other similar changes were rung on the 3 pf. and on some of the 1856 stamps. Beginners

* The German thaler dates back no farther than the fifteenth century. It had its origin thus: the Counts of Schlick coined the silver extracted from their mines at Joachim's thal (Joachim's valley) into ounce pieces, which received the name of Joachim's thalers. These coins gained such a reputation that they became a kind of pattern, and others of the same kind, though made in other places, took the name, only dropping the first part of the word for shortness. Dollar is a corruption of the word "thaler," or "daler."—"Postage-stamp Money," *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 120.

cannot give too wide a berth to such profitless lumber.

In 1859 the series with the profile of the blind King George V.*—finely engraved, and of a design uniting many of the most meritorious qualities—made its appearance, together with its satellite, the 3 pf. rose. This latter is distinguished from the first-issued stamp of the same colour and value by the absence of watermark. The values with profile are as follows:—

1 groschen	rose.
2 „	blue.
3 „	yellow.

Later on, in 1861, in conformity with the understanding come to between the German states, the colour of the 3 gr. was changed to brown, and at the same time an additional value was issued,—the 10 groschen, green. The denominations of value, it will be observed, are much simplified in this series; there are no perplexing fractions, nor conflicting “guten” and “silber” groschen, but all are reduced to the one uniform currency of groschens. For a short time, however, in the year 1859—whether before or after the emission of the profile series M. Berger-Levrault (my authority for the statement) does not say—the 1 g.gr. green, of 1851, was reissued for temporary circulation, probably a supply of the old stock being opportunely at hand to meet some accidental failing of the current value.

The colour varieties of this series are the result of successive editions. When the changes above alluded to were made in 1861, a fresh supply of the 1 gr. and 2 gr. was printed off. Hence we have to catalogue these values as follows:—

- 1 gr. deep rose (1859), light rose (1861).
- 2 „ dull blue („), deep ultramarine (1861).

On the 1st April, 1860, a new value was

* The king lost his sight from an accident when quite a youth, as is commonly reported, from his swinging a long purse round and round, which accidentally struck him such a blow on the eye as in the end to deprive him of sight.—*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 68.

issued, the $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen, in black on rather thick, yellowish-white paper. This is an extremely simple stamp. A thick single-line rectangle encloses the word HANNOVER, in block type, a crown, a well-drawn post-horn, and the value. The 1st January, 1864, witnessed the appearance of a fourth 3 pfennige stamp, this time printed in green on white, of the same type as its predecessors, but differing from them all in having the fractional value expressed thus: DREI ZEHNTTEL SILBER-GROSCHEN—three-tenths of a silber-groschen. Probably the former denomination—one-third sgr.—had been objected to as inaccurate, there being ten, and not nine, pfennige to the groschen.



The history of the Hanoverian adhesives winds up with the perforation, or, more exactly speaking, the piercing, of all the values, except the 10 gr. The 3 pf., 1 gr., and 3 gr. underwent the operation in June, 1864, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. and 2 gr. in 1865 or 1866. Owing to the comparatively short time during which the perforated supply of the two latter values was in use, obliterated copies of the same are not frequently met with; but the other three members of the series are tolerably common. The perforated 1 gr. is met with in rose and bright rose, and the 3 sgr., instead of brown, was issued perf. in bistre.

ENVELOPES.

The first series of stamped envelopes was issued on the 15th April, 1857. The design consists of the profile of King George V. to left, in solid oval, in oval engine turned border, inscribed, above the portrait, HANNOVER, and below EIN GUTER (1) GROSCHEN; * the portrait and the figure—which, on a small oval disk, intersects the value—are in white relief; the lettering is sunken; the usual microscopic inscription, EIN GUTER (OR EIN, ZWEI, OR DR

* Ein silber (1) groschen, &c., as the case may be.

SILBER) GROSCHEN POST COUVERT, printed in green ink, crosses the left upper corner in which the stamp is struck; the values and colours are the same as those of the adhesive set, viz. :—

1 guter-groschen	green.
1 silber	rose.
2 "	blue.
3 "	yellow.

Entire original envelopes of this series are scarce, but all the values have been reprinted on bluish tinted paper. A specimen of the 1 g.gr. was discovered by M. Moens, struck in rose, with the diagonal inscription reading thus: EIN PROBE POST COUVERT (postage envelope proof), instead of the usual inscription. This proof envelope was probably an experiment.

The second series—issued on the 1st October, 1858, a few months in advance of the corresponding adhesives—differs from the first in the value, and in the possession of two circular disks in the border, one on either side of the profile, instead of the single oval disk at foot; said disks in the second series being in white relief, with the numeral of value sunk in the centre. Of this series three editions appeared, all with green diagonal inscriptions.

(1).—1st October, 1858; stamp in left upper corner.

1 groschen	dark rose.
2 "	sky blue.
3 "	chrome-yellow.

(2).—20th November, 1861; stamp in right upper corner.

1 groschen	rose.
2 "	blue.
3 "	stone.

(3).—May, 1863; stamp in left upper corner.

1 groschen	rose.
2 "	blue.
3 "	stone.

It will be seen that the first and third

editions are substantially the same, the only difference being in the shade; hence the difficulty in distinguishing with certainty between them is excessive, whilst the necessity for collecting both is questionable. The appearance of the third edition, however, was neither due to whim nor accident. It was in compliance with a suggestion of the Prussian post-office that the second edition, with stamp to right, was issued; but the Hanoverians had become so accustomed to the envelopes with stamp to left, that they loudly objected to the innovation, protesting that the stamp in its new position stood in the way of the address. Such is the force of habit. We, on our side, should probably be equally dissatisfied were our post-office to take to issuing envelopes with the stamps to left. However, the Hanoverians got their way. The stamp-to-right envelopes were withdrawn, and the third series, above catalogued, was issued.

Originals of the first two editions are getting comparatively scarce; the members of the third are, however, easily to be had, and reprints of the first two are likewise plentiful.

Town of Hanover.

Envelopes of no less than four different types in all were issued for the local service of the town of Hanover. The two first were not discovered until long after their suppression, and original impressions are of considerable rarity. The earliest of these local envelopes takes precedence of all the adhesives issued for the general service of the realm in right of age, it having been issued on the 15th May, 1849; whilst the first adhesive stamp, the 1 g.gr. blue, did not see the light until December of the following year. This is far from being the only instance of a stamp or envelope for local postage being issued prior to the regular introduction of stamps. In this case the local envelope, or cover, requires all the importance derivable from priority of date to render it interesting, for it is simply a sheet of white paper folded thrice lengthwise, and then thrice crosswise, so as to form an oblong to receive the address, and on this oblong, above the space intended for the address, is struck in gothic characters the inscription BESTELLGELD-FREI (post free).

On that part which forms the back when the cover is folded into envelope shape, is an inscription in German, printed in black, to the effect that "by the use of these covers, provided on the face with the stamp *Bestellgeld-frei*, letters are forwarded free of postage to the persons to whom they are addressed within the capital town of Hanover, the suburb of Hanover (exclusive of the forest-houses in the Eilenreid), in the suburb of Glocksee, and in the parish of Linden; these covers will be sold by the Royal Hanover Post-office at 3 g.gr. the dozen."

The second local cover shows a rather more ambitious design, the front bearing a wood-engraved vignette, consisting of a post-horn, half hidden in a foliate ornament, at each corner. The corner ornaments are connected together by faint lines which form a rectangle, each line being broken in the centre by the word *BESTELLGELD-FREI* in gothic characters. A small handstruck stamp, like a postmark, in the lower left corner, contains the same word surrounding a post-horn, and itself enclosed in a single-line circle. The reverse side of the cover also bears an ornamental device on the portion marked for the flap, and on the lower part is an inscription similar to that on the first cover, with the exception that the price is raised to four g.gr. per dozen. The cover is of bright yellow paper, the vignette and inscriptions are in black, and the handstruck stamp in blue.

These covers were issued in sheets, upon which two varieties are found side by side;* in one of the designs the ornamental corners are all dissimilar; in the other that of the left lower corner is similar to that of the upper right corner. The former variety was reprinted in 1870.

On the 1st November, 1858, the ornamented covers were replaced by a buff-coloured envelope bearing a circular embossed stamp in green, struck on the left upper corner. The stamp contains a trefoil leaf in the centre, with post-horn below, and inscription *BESTELLGELD-FREI* in half-circle above, within a single-line circle; the whole in relief on a plain ground. At the back,

on the upper flap, is the inscription, in green, *SOLD AT THE HANOVER POST-OFFICE IN PACKETS OF TEN FOR 5 GROSCHEN*. On the lower flap is another inscription in green, similar to that on the covers, but more concise:—*POSTAGE FREE FOR THE CAPITAL TOWN OF HANOVER, THE SUBURB OF HANOVER, &c., &c.*—a notice which, by the way, clearly contradicts a statement quoted in the second volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, to the effect that these envelopes were in use throughout the realm of Hanover. I have not been able to trace any explanation of the appearance of the trefoil on this local envelope; does it form part of the arms of the town? The question is one that deserves a reply; and at the same time the heraldic significance of the horse which figures on the succeeding type merits investigation.

The trefoil envelope is rather rare, but reprints are plentiful; and some years ago a number of them made their appearance cut square and gummed at the back, although the originals were certainly never issued as adhesives.

On the 20th November, 1861 (date of issue of the second edition of the second series of envelopes with profile), the trefoil stamp struck in left upper corner gave place to another circular stamp, this time with galloping horse in relief in centre, struck, according to the newly-adopted rule, in the right upper corner. In this design the post-horn does not figure, but the inscription, *BESTELLGELD-FREI*, is maintained, and the letter-press on the flaps is the same as in the preceding type.



In May, 1863, a second edition appeared, with the stamp struck to left, which was reprinted in 1870. It has been asserted by M. Moens, on the faith of official documents, that a supply of this type, impressed in *left* upper corner, was issued on the 1st October, 1861, and was consequently in use for the six weeks which elapsed between that date and the known emission with stamp to right.

* See *The Philatelist*, vol. v., p. 129.

Neither Dr. Magnus nor "A Parisian Collector" have, however, been able to trace this stamp, and its emission seems doubtful, inasmuch as at the asserted date of issue the decision had presumably been arrived at to cease impressing the stamp in the left corner.

The Hanoverian stamps all became obsolete on the 1st October, 1866, when they were superseded by the Prussian stamps. Just before the war broke out in that year, a new type for the envelope stamps was prepared, which would probably have been employed likewise for the adhesives. From



the annexed engraving it will be seen that the type resembles in its arrangement that of the last Saxons. Of its official character there is no doubt, and only the result of the war prevented the emission from becoming *un fait*

accompli. The proofs which have found their way into philatelic albums are printed in rose, black, blue, and bistre, and the portrait of the king is said to be a remarkably faithful one.

Corrigenda.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—I have to thank a correspondent for calling attention to my omission to notice the two newspaper wrappers of the Confederation. $\frac{1}{3}$ groschen green, and 1 kr. green, respectively, of the same design as the corresponding adhesives.

HAMBURG.—I have also to express my obligation to the Rev. R. B. Earée for kindly forwarding for inspection his specimen of the Hamburg post card, originally described by *The Philatelist*, the existence of which I had ventured to query; and to Mr. J. B. T., of Manchester, for the information he sent concerning it. The card is the North German one, inscribed NORD DEUTSCHES POST-GEBIET; and an adhesive $\frac{1}{2}$ schg. stamp—the one issued by the Confederation, without any value in the centre, for use in Hamburg—is in the upper right corner.

LETTERS FROM THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC are no longer forwarded by the foreign consuls or packet agents, but are dispatched by the government postal administration.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

La Gazette des Timbres.—Last month we announced the decease of this journal; we have now the pleasure of announcing its resuscitation, without any substantial change in garb. The illustrated wrapper is of a slate colour, instead of white; this is the sole external alteration; but we regret to find that Dr. Magnus's name as editor disappears from the title, and the number before us, consisting of eight pages of printed matter, contains nothing from his pen. The entire work connected with the *Gazette* now falls, at least temporarily, on M. P. Mahé, and we must say he has acquitted himself of it very successfully. The bulk of the number is occupied with the "Chronicle of Novelties," which contains notices of stamps issued during the last two or three months. It is preceded by an introductory paper, in which the services rendered by *Gazette* the First are narrated, and promises are made, which if kept cannot fail to render the new comer as interesting as its predecessor; and the number closes with sundry short paragraphs. Glancing over the "Chronicle" we are glad to find M. Mahé recommends the rejection of the multicoloured German cards and newspaper wrappers, impressed to order by the Berlin post-office. We also find the following statement respecting the doubtful Ecuador types:—

One of our correspondents, in constant communication with this country (Ecuador), hands us, in the following terms, the information we had requested him to obtain respecting the new types, which so quickly disappeared:—

"The government of Ecuador had made a contract with the printer for a certain number of stamps, of which the stock is not yet exhausted, for only lately a fresh supply was struck off, which, although the printing was defective, the government was obliged to accept. It is another printer who has undertaken the new series."

We can understand now how it was that the new types, which were put in circulation the 1st January, have all at once disappeared, and been replaced by the old ones, of which a large number still have to be used up.

From this we must presume that, as the supply of the old stamps ran short towards the close of last year, the government was bound to have temporary recourse to the new designs, and that as soon as the printer had delivered his last batch of the old type the employment of the new was stopped. It is rather a pity M. Mahé's correspondent was

not more explicit, for the most plausible conjectures are but poor substitutes for solid facts.

Under the heading *Switzerland* M. Mahé publishes the statement of a Berlin correspondent, to the effect that his letters from Bâle, Fribourg, and Geneva are prepaid with the German 1 groschen, bearing the ordinary Swiss cancellation. He explains this anomaly by the fact that a convention between Germany and Switzerland has just come into operation, under which letters between the two countries are carried at the rate of 1 groschen, or $12\frac{1}{2}$ centimes; and as Switzerland has not had time to issue a stamp of the latter value, she provisionally uses the German 1 groschen. This, if the correct explanation, is certainly a strange one. The general rule is to create a provisional stamp, pending the fabrication of a supply of the new value, and such a thing as the stamps of one country being officially employed by another has never before been heard of.

Le Timbre-Poste for September is principally remarkable for the commencement of a useful article on the "Stamps of Parma," in which the decree of the 7th March, 1852, which regulated the emission of the first series, is published at length. From that decree it results that the two stamps printed in black on colour (10 c. black, 40 c. blue), which it has hitherto been supposed were issued *after* the 5 c., 15 c., and 25 c., colour on white, were, in fact, issued at the same time, and that the five values consequently form one and the same series. Following this article comes M. Moens' announcement of his intention to issue, at the beginning of the year, a journal similar in its get-up to *Le Timbre-Poste*, treating solely of fiscal stamps, and to be entitled *Le Timbre-Fiscal*; the editorship is to be confided to Dr. Magnus. This is a much better plan than mixing up postage and fiscal issues together, and we are very glad we shall not meet any references to the latter in the pages of our old friend.

The Philatelist presents a full list of new issues, followed by the continuation of a very useful article on post cards, to the reproduction of which we observe M. Mahé, in his *Gazette*, strongly objects. This is followed

by the second part of Mr. Tiffany's article on the Saint Louis stamps, reprinted from the author's original manuscript, and to this succeeds the usual article on the "Philatelic Press," in which Dr. Magnus's monograph on the reprinted Prussian envelopes and stamps is carefully analysed.

The Stamp continues to fulfil the promise of early intelligence held out by its opening numbers. The issue for the 1st September, is full of news, some items of which we have transferred to our own columns, but, though it is a good sign for the prosperity of the journal, we are sorry to see the advertisements encroaching so much on the letterpress as to leave no room for any other article besides that on "New Issues." The "General News," the "Reviews," &c., in the first numbers, were interesting reading, and it would be well if space could be found in each impression for these articles. The number for the 15th September is not yet to hand (29th). Surely our contemporary is not falling into the foreign defect of unpunctuality.

The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle.—The June number of this quarterly publication has only just reached us! Now, a quarterly publication published only once every six months is an hibernicism which we should think its conductors could manage to avoid. The contents of this second number are very readable, and the typographical arrangements leave really nothing to be desired. The opening article treats of Confederate locals, and the writer expresses himself very dubious as to the value of the Fredericksburg stamps, which were discovered by Dr. Petrie, and respecting which Miss Thom, daughter of the postmaster by whom they are supposed to have been issued, wrote so precisely. "To Young Collectors" is the title of a pithy chapter of advice addressed by Mr. L. W. Durbin to beginners. The following recommendations are well worth transcribing:—

Do not send your orders to those who advertise *rare* stamps at a few cents per set. When you receive a letter or circular from anyone offering the set of Pacific Steam Navigation Co. stamps for 16 cents, a set of New Granada for ten cents, &c., *put a black mark opposite the name of that party*; for he is offering you forgeries, and you ought not to buy them, for you thus encourage dishonesty.

There is a mistake that young collectors (and some old ones too) make. They refuse to purchase unused stamps for fear they are counterfeits. But they should know that nine-tenths of all the forged stamps sold are cancelled to give them a genuine appearance.

"Some Post-office Rules" are very amusing, and contains some good hints to meddlers and busy-bodies. The article headed "Our Black List" tells its own tale; the firm of Sidney Simpson & Co. therein obtains additional but unenviable notoriety. The list of new emissions has a comical heading, which must be the result of a typographical blunder—"New and *prescribed* Issues, Novelties," &c. However, the information it contains is none the less useful. Among other odd items, we find a reference to a provisional three-halfpenny New Brunswick, of which we fancy we have heard before. It is simply one half of the lozenge shaped threepence, divided so as to form a triangle, and bearing the numerals "1½," surcharged in brick-red. The threepenny stamp was sold to the public entire, with the above figures struck on each half, the purchasers being left to effect the separation of the two as required. The remainder of the number is occupied with the article entitled "Our Review" and sundry minor papers.

The American Journal of Philately.—The principal article in the double number for the 1st and 15th August, is an instalment of "A Collector's Notes on the Stamps of New Granada,"—a really valuable addition to philatelic lore, to which we have already alluded, and which we trust to have the pleasure of reviewing when complete. "Stamps on blued Paper" is a reprint (acknowledged) from the *Philatelist*. From the chronicle on newly-issued stamps we have gleaned some interesting intelligence, which is duly noted in its proper place.

La Posta Mondiale.—The second number of this journal is before us. Its contents are composed in part of a description of newly-issued stamps, and in part of a reference to the Italian municipal issues. We cannot find any specially noteworthy or quotable piece of information in the number.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

HELGOLAND.—The two promised novelties, the ½ sch. and 1½ sch., have made their appearance. The design is in all its leading points the same as that of the previously issued stamps; in both, however, the ornaments in the spandrels are suppressed. In the lower value the Queen's profile is on a green oval disk, and the frame is in carmine; whilst in the higher the order is reversed, the profile being on a carmine disk, and the frame of a delicate green; in both instances the inscriptions are in white letters. The carmine disk of the 1½, it should be observed, is roughly struck, the colour encroaching on the embossed profile, and giving it a ragged outline.

PARLUNPOOR.—In quoting last month from *The Stamp* the report of an emission for this state, we were careful to leave the responsibility for the intelligence with our con-

temporary, and our circumspection in the matter has been fully justified by the event. The stamps themselves, in a marvellously short time after the putting forth of the first feeler, have made their appearance, and we must say that their looks

do not incline us to put much confidence in them. We append an engraving of the type, which does it more than justice. The originals are printed, with calculated roughness, in pale Indian ink on cream-laid note, and it is stated that the set is composed of seven values. Of course, there is nothing to prevent the rajah of any outlandish Indian state issuing stamps, and having them printed on English note paper; but unless, and until, properly authenticated proofs are forthcoming, we shall refuse to believe that the Parlunpoor stamps are other than essays on credulity, and we strongly advise all our readers in the meanwhile to have nothing to do with them.

DENMARK AND DANISH POSSESSIONS.—A new monetary system has just been adopted in Scandinavia, as the result of a conference held by the savants of the north. The

future currency will be in *marks* and *öre*, and it is intended to issue fresh series of stamps for Denmark and her dependencies, with the values expressed in the new denominations.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—For first intelligence of the following new issues we are exclusively indebted to our Belgian contemporary.

Orgueïff (Territory of Bessarabia.)—The annexed design hails from a district which



now joins the stamp-issuing ranks, and, as will be noticed, is of an unusually ornate character. The tree and scythe are presumably the armorial bearings of the district, and may be intended to typify its fertility. The

signification of the bull's head, which figures in the lower margin, must, perhaps, be sought in the geographical position of the district. It is situated between Moldo-Wallachia, the Pruth, the Dnieper, and the Black Sea. It has only formed part of Russia since 1812, when it was ceded by the treaty of Bucharest, and we shall probably not be far out in conjecturing that the bull's head, which it will be remembered formed part of the arms of Moldo-Wallachia, is in one way or another a *souvenir* of the former connection of the district with the Danubian Principalities. The oval inscription signifies **RURAL POST OF ORGUEIFF**, and the value in words appears in the scrolls beneath. There are two stamps, printed in black on glazed paper, covered with a coloured pattern, and perforated 13.

3 kop. black and flesh.

6 " black and green.

Werchnie - Dnieproffsk (Ekaterinoslav.)—The type described

four months ago, and said to have been issued so long since as 1866, has just been withdrawn in favour of the annexed lithographed design, of which the



multiplication is perhaps easier and less costly. The new stamp is not a whit prettier than its predecessor, but it has, at any rate, the advantage of being

struck in blue, instead of in black, and with this faint praise we take our leave of it.

Atkarsk (Saratoff.)—In our original list of locals this district figures under the name of *Atkar*, and we have since

seen it stated that the name should be written *Atkarsk*; which is the correct orthography remains to be proved. The stamp described in our list (arms surmounted by crown in rectangle, no value indicated)



has not yet come to light, but another design has been discovered, which is here illustrated. The curious trio of fishes in the upper half of the shield reminds one of the Belozersk stamp, whilst the three birds are evidently near relations of those which figure on the Fatejh and Livni emissions. The new comer makes its appearance in plain black on white.

Novgorod (Novgorod.)—We learn from *The Stamp* that stamps from a new die are in circulation.

Maloarchangelsk (Orel.)—The same paper states that a label for this locality has made its appearance. Is it the one described in our list, or a new type?

Kotelnitsch (Viatka.)—The stamps for this district are stated to have been withdrawn on the 31st December last.

Tchern (Tula.)—The 3 kop., recently described and illustrated, now comes over handstruck in black on horizontally laid white paper.

Mariopol (Ekaterinoslav.)—The design figured in our July number has already been superseded by a similar type. The arms are on a vertically-lined ground, the Roman figure 5 is enclosed in a double frame inscribed on all four sides, the ground is covered with a fine pattern, and the corner figures are in white on colour. The impression is in black on white wove paper.

Charkoff (Charkoff.)—The latest arrivals of the 5 kopecs are found to be printed carmine.

Fatejh (Koursk.)—A variety of the envelope has been received by M. Moens with the stamp printed in brick-red, instead of vermilion.

Schatsk (Tamboff.)—The stamp described in 1871 has just deigned to make its appearance. Were we ignorant of its name, the arms alone would suffice to indicate from what government it comes, for they closely resemble those of the Tamboff district, except in that the crossed sheaves of corn, which figure on the *Schatsk* stamp and strengthen the symbolism of the device, are wanting on the Tamboff. The inscription signifies SCHATSK DISTRICT RURAL COURT STAMP, PRICE 3 KOP. In like manner, the words RURAL COURT appear on the Tamboff emissions, and it may be remarked, *en passant*, that in some other governments the word COURT, instead of POST, is employed. The *Schatsk* stamp is struck in black on white.

SERVIA.—This country has not been long in following the lead of Roumania in the issue of post cards. It has started with a 10 paras green, bearing a stamp of the annexed type, which is an evident copy of the Belgian 10 centime adhesive. There is also a reply-paid card, the two halves of which are mere reproductions of the ordinary card. In the centre, near the upper edge of these cards, are the Servian arms. The whole is enclosed in a border similar to that on the English post cards, whence it would seem that the Servian authorities have been intent on bringing out a post card of the composite order.

VICTORIA.—From this colony we have received a specimen of a provisional halfpenny stamp recently issued, and formed from the current penny green, with the surcharge figured in annexed diagram; the fractions are on either side of the profile, and the word HALF crosses the neck, so that in conjunction



with the marginal inscription it reads thus: HALF ONE PENNY. The idea is an original one, and certainly leads to an economy of

letter-press. Had, however, the word "halfpenny," in its entirety, been printed across the stamp, we cannot think the expense would have been much greater. The surcharge is struck in carmine. The stamps on which it appears bear the v. and crown watermark.

UNITED STATES.—We have had the opportunity of examining a number of the new departmental stamps, and have been somewhat disappointed in the designs. They are handsome and effective enough; indeed, they could hardly fail of being so, seeing that the admirable medallions of the ordinary series figure on them, and the colours are precisely those used in that series; but beyond the mere inscription there is nothing which specially identifies the stamps with the departments to which they belong. It would have been easy to embellish each series with appropriate symbols: thus, on the war stamps, the medallions might have had a trophy of arms for a background; whilst those for the agricultural department might have borne a representation of some of the leading implements; the navy stamps, instead of the bell-pull, which figures also on other sets, might at least have been provided

with an anchor, and so on. However, we must be content with the stamps as they are, though it must be admitted that, taken altogether, they are rather fatiguing from the monotonous repetition of the same types in a dozen different sets; and for the sake of the relief they afford we are prepared to vote the post-office set the handsomest. We append engravings of three of the designs (Post-office, Treasury, and Interior), that our

readers may be able to make themselves acquainted with the style.

The *A. J. P.* states that the printing of the adhesive stamps for the United States has been transferred from the National to the *Continental Bank Note Company*—the company by which the new 300 reis Brazil was prepared. The difference, adds our contemporary, is easily noticed without the aid of the imprint, the colours being paler than heretofore, and of a slightly washy appearance.

CANADA.—Arrangements have been concluded between the United States and the Dominion for the carriage of post cards between the two countries at the rate of two cents each. Special international cards will have to be prepared by both the contracting parties, and, according to *The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle*, the effigy on the Canadian 2 c. card is likely to be that of the late Sir George E. Cartier. The same paper states that a registered letter stamp for Canada is being discussed among the postal officials, and it further adds that

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND joined the Dominion on the 1st of July last; its stamps consequently "fall out."

SPAIN.—One of our most valued correspondents calls us strictly to account for too readily placing faith in the Don Carlos stamp, of which we gave an engraving last month. The specimen whence our illustration was taken was communicated to M. Moens by M. A. d'Arlot de Saint Sand, who had received it from a Carlist officer, and our Belgian *confrère* appeared to have full confidence in it. But now we find in the resuscitated *Gazette des Timbres* the following perplexing paragraph:—

"One of our subscribers, an inhabitant of a French town in which some Carlist officers are detained, has received from one of them a stamp with effigy of Don Carlos, and after showing him the type which we reproduce [the design represented in our last], he declared that the one was as different from the other as night from day." Furthermore the correspondent above referred to; a gentleman whose knowledge of Spain permits him to speak with a certain authority, argues that the value is too high; there

would have been more in favour of the stamp had its denomination been 4 cuartos or 10 *centesimos*; he also does not believe that Don Carlos has acquired sufficient footing in the country to establish a postal service. In presence of these conflicting reports and opinions, as difficult to reconcile as are the Carlist and Republican telegrams from Spain, we must suspend judgment until we are in possession of more positive data.

Our correspondent does not believe that the 40 c. blue (*Amadeus*), is anything more than a proof, and he is almost equally doubtful as to the 25 c. lilac.

PHILIPPINES.—The same friend questions the value of the recently chronicled 62 c. rose, and 12 c. blue for these islands. He believes that no used copies have been seen.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The current number of *The American Journal of Philately* contains engravings of the three new values which a short time since were reported to be "in the press." The 30 (*treinta*) centavos, printed in orange, bears the three-quarter face to right of Gen. Carlos de Alvear; the 60 (*sesenta*) centavos black, the three-quarter face to right of Don Gervasio Antonio de Posadas; and 90 (*noventa*) centavos blue, a full-face portrait of General Don Cornelio Saavedra. These portraits—which, as far as we can judge from the engravings, appear to be very effective—are all set in ovals, with name above and value below, and numerals of value in upper corners. The government, it is stated by the same journal, is preparing a book giving the postal laws of the country, which will be illustrated with wood engravings of the stamps.

ANTIOQUIA.—A new 5 c. stamp is stated by *Le Timbre-Poste*, on the authority of M. Roussin, to have been issued. The type is similar to that of 1869, but having been redrawn it differs from the old in that—

The figures are shaded, instead of solid.

The design is lacking above and below the upper and lower figures.

The stars are smaller.

The eagle holds a scroll in its beak.

These are the principal variations, but there are a number of minor ones. The colour remains the same, 5 centavos green. The 10 c. is now reddish-lilac.

ITALY.—This time there appears to be no reason to doubt that post cards are about to be issued for Italy. According to *Le Timbre-Poste* a contract has been passed with a Turin firm for the supply of the cards necessary for the emission, which is fixed for New Year's Day next. The cards are to be of two colours, yellow and rose; the yellow will be the ordinary card, the rose will be the double ones, with one half for the prepaid reply.

DOMINICA.—According to *The Stamp* a rumour is current in Dominica that stamps are to be issued there.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The shilling green adhesive has been issued with the corner letters on white ground.

CURACOA.—It is only since the 1st June that these stamps have been in use.

POSTAL RATES IN CHILI.

BY FULANO.

THE Chilean government has just laid before congress a bill which, if passed, will ensure very important changes in the present postal tariff. This bill, as will be seen further on, while it benefits the majority on one side, adds to the burden of the minority (foreigners) on the other.

To the tariff of 1851 additions have been made from time to time, without, it seems, the slightest regard being paid to what went before; so that, as it stands at present it is a very curious arrangement. The following are examples, the lines of steamers mentioned being the "Pacific Steam Navigation Co." and the "C^a Sud Americana de Vapores."

P. S. N. C.— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to any place in Chili, north of Valparaíso, 15 c.

C. S. A. de V.— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ditto, 10 c.

P. S. N. C.— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to any place in Chili, south of Valparaíso, 20 c.

C. S. A. de V.— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ditto 15 c.

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to Bolivia and Peru, as far as Callao, 10 c.

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. North of Callao, as far as Panama, 20 c.

Thus it will be seen that the postage to Peru is 5 c. less (the letter being subject to no further charge) than to a place in Chili.

As a remedy for these odiosas diferencias the following is proposed.

Art. 1.—On letters, manuscripts, &c., sent by steamer, whether Chilean or Foreign, to any place in the Republic.
9 grammes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) 10 c., &c.

Art. 5.—On letters by steamer to any place in South and Central America, Mexico, United States, and West India.
9 grammes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) 15 c., &c.

So far so good, the proposed rates are lower than those now paid. But now we have the reverse.

Art. 8.—On letters to Europe, Russian and British America, Greenland (!), Africa, Asia, and Australia.
9 grammes 25 c., &c.

Up to the present, letters for Europe, &c., posted at the local offices, have been exempted from the payment of postage; and at the British and French Post Office Agencies the prepayment is optional. Under the new arrangement letters would, in every case, have to be prepaid.

There would be no great reason to complain of the rate, if we had not to pay the corresponding English postage as well; as the Chilean as well as the British government pay the P. S. N. Co., both have the same right to charge what they think fit. The postage of a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter, *via* Panama, would, therefore, be: Chilean, 50 c. and English 45 c.=95 c., which is too much. I suppose that, should the bill in question become law, the British Post Office Agency would cease to exist, unless paid letters should have first to be taken there and then to the post-office.

Art. 9.—Letters from abroad (Europe, &c.) shall pay postage according to the rate mentioned in Art. 8.

This charge on inward letters is an old grievance, and one which foreigners take some time to digest. At present it is 15 c. per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

Under the new arrangement the recipient of a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter would, therefore, have to pay 50 c., and his answer would cost 95 c. (including English postage), in all about 5/6, against 1/6 paid by the sender in England.

It will, therefore, be seen that, under this arrangement, the gainers, generally, would be the natives. One would be inclined to think the government lost by the post-office, that they could not afford to lower the postage in one case without raising it in another. And yet it is not so. Last year's net income was \$40,000. A mode of increasing this would be by charging postage on newspapers, which are carried gratis now.

THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. RAREE.

Supplementary Article.

THROUGH the kindness of Señor A. Gomez, of Lisbon, I am enabled to offer to my readers a few more facts concerning the Portuguese stamps, which may, I think, be of general interest. I commented in my first article upon the great number of 25 reis stamps of Donna Maria to be met with, compared with the scarcity of the other values; and this arises from the fact that the postage of an ordinary letter, to any part of the kingdom from any other part, was then (and is now) 25 reis. The 5 reis stamp was used for newspapers, &c.,—5 reis for every sheet of printed matter. In the twenty years which have elapsed since 1853 literature has made great progress; and I need scarcely remind my readers that in the time of Donna Maria comparatively few newspapers passed through the post. This, then, will account for the rarity of the 5 reis. None of the Portuguese stamps have ever been officially declared obsolete; so that to this present day any stamps, whether of Donna Maria, Don Pedro, or Don Luiz, would serve to frank a letter through the post. This is rather strange, considering how very well the Donna Maria stamps have been reprinted, because it must be remembered that the old issues (though still current, if any private individual happen to possess a stock of them) are no longer officially sold. With regard to the printing of the stamps, there are three machines at the government printing establishment—two for the 25 reis, and one for the stamps of all the other values. One of the 25 reis machines is always at work, and if anything happens to either of them, the other is immediately put into action, so that there may be no stoppage. The number of offices in 1853 which were empowered to obliterate stamps was 219; each of these offices had, as I have before described, an obliteration stamp bearing the number of the office. The first of these (No. 1) was, and is, Lisbon, and the last (No. 219), Villa Real de Santo Antonio. The stamps of the current series were engraved by Campos, a Portuguese engraver. This artist has fol-

lowed pretty closely the design of the former type engraved by C. Wiener, of Belgium, and has succeeded better; for I am told that the current stamps bear a very faithful representation of his present majesty, Don Luiz; whereas the effigy designed by Wiener does not bear the remotest resemblance to him. This may possibly be the reason why the new stamps were issued. The current stamps are all printed in sheets of 28; but from 1853 until the first issue of Don Luiz they were all in sheets of 24 only. The 240 reis of the present type has at last put in an appearance, and has now been in use for about six weeks.

I owe an apology to my readers for the very disconnected and fragmentary style of this article, but it must be remembered that all these facts reached me *after* the articles bearing upon the subject had appeared in print, and were, consequently, too late for insertion in their proper place. It is generally the fate of those who aspire to philatelic honours, that they have to write their articles *first*, and *then* receive the best part of their information; and I think they may esteem themselves fortunate if the information comes in friendly private letters (as in my case), instead of in hostile public criticisms.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AMATEUR.

NEW GRANADA.—Recently there has come under the writer's notice a fine postmarked copy of the 5 centavos lilac, issue 1859, large figures, *on laid* paper. The example in question is on paper laid with the lines horizontally placed, and was affixed to the original letter by the side of a ten centavos yellow-brown, of the same issue, on wove paper; the large postmark *Bogota*, in an oval frame, obliterated both stamps at one impression. The genuine nature of the edition on laid paper has been doubted by some, denied by others, no other stamp of the country being printed on laid paper; but the writer has never seen reason to question the authenticity of this 5 centavos. This is the second instance of a postmarked copy coming to his notice from an indubitable source, and is

chronicled in the hope of helping to set at rest a moot point.

SPAIN.—The stamps officially issued for the use of the chamber of deputies amount to a large number, some of them being scarce.

In 1872 two stamps—one blue, the other black—of similar design were issued; shield and arms surmounted by a crown, and supported by laurels, with labels above and below; the lower in both inscribed EL DIRECTOR GRAL; the upper, CORREOS Y TELEGRAFOS, stamp printed in blue; and COMUNICACIONES, stamp printed in black; while in the centre, on a scutcheon of pretence, is the cross of Savoy. On lately scrutinising a copy before mounting, it was found to be on thick, *gilt-edged, wove, writing paper*. The only parallel case is in Guadalajara, 1867; 4 reales, on a bluish paper; *quadrillé*. Probably the specimens now sold were struck for the sake of complaisance; the impressions which cleared the post being hand-struck on the letter or packet after it was received by the post official at chamber or senate house.

M. Moens, in his catalogue, 4th edition, p. 41, No. 15, records—"1851. 2 reales bleu, *erreur d'impression*." The normal colour of this stamp is *orange*. This opposition of colours precludes the idea of chemical or other change, and as the only blue stamp in the series is the 6 reales, the most likely idea is that a die of the 2 reales got set up by accident in a sheet of the 6 reales. This particular error has not come under the writer's personal notice, but in the collection of M. Herpin, of Paris, was a copy of the 6 cuartos, 1857, printed in a lovely azure blue, as a trial of colour; and possibly M. Moens' original may have so originated. The paper tells its story, being a fine plate paper, and very distinct from that used for the series of stamps as issued.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Histoire de la Poste aux Lettres, depuis ses origines les plus anciennes jusqu'à nos jours. Par Arthur de Rothschild. Paris. 8vo. 1873.

THE author of the work before us is not unknown in the world of philatelists. Pos-

sessed of one of the finest collections of stamps and envelopes extant, and recognised as one of the leading and most energetic collectors in Paris, Baron Arthur de Rothschild has from time to time contributed papers on subjects of philatelic interest to the journals—chiefly, we believe, to *Le Timbre-Poste*—and in 1871 published a *brochure* on the introduction of the postage stamp in England, followed, in 1872, by a pamphlet on "Penny Postage," in which he first described the various proposals submitted to the Treasury in 1840, and especially that of Samuel Forrester, an officer in the Excise.

The present occasion is the subject of a work of larger dimensions, and much more extended aim, though the author modestly disclaims any intention of being more than a faithful chronicler of facts.

We will briefly recount the contents of his book. After defining the word *Post*, he proceeds to disclose the result of his researches into ancient literature, so far as they bear on the subject; and thus he treats of the Post among the Eastern nations of old, follows it first through Greece, and then the republican days of Rome, and concludes what may be termed the ancient period by its history under the Cæsars and the later Empire.

Succeeding chapters deal with the Middle Ages, the creation of *maitres de poste* in France, the *ordonnances* of the kings prior to Henri IV., and through a multitude of events trace the history of the office down to its constitution under Louvois, in the times of Louis XIV. Passing rapidly by the Regency, Louis Seize, the Revolution, the Empire, and the Restoration, our author brings down the story of the French post-office till the eve of the great postal reforms in England, and the invention of the postage stamp. He then, leaving France, diverges, and devotes a chapter to postal affairs among other nations, and surveys their establishments, dwelling particularly—with much curious and novel information—on that of Tour and Taxis, so recently suppressed.

Having thus disposed of the older period, the reform initiated in England by Sir Rowland Hill is next treated of, and a well-merited tribute is paid to his enlightened and far-seeing views, that about the reign

of Charles II. Francois Velaye had conceived the idea of a postal billet or ticket, marked *FRANCO*, to denote *post paid*, is held not to disentitle Sir Rowland Hill to the full credit of being the originator of the present system.

After considering our postal reform, its results and probable future, the author turns to that originated in France, and the adoption of postage stamps there. He then gives an entire chapter to the organization of the post-office among our neighbours, with many details of the service; a chapter on the methods of manufacture of postage stamps follows; while one on post cards finishes the work.

Having thus given a brief but incomplete summary of the contents of the book, there remains to us to speak of the execution by the author of his self-imposed task.

In the preparation of his materials, the Baron has shown unwearied diligence, combined with great research. From Holy Writ itself, and the pages of the father of history (Herodotus), to the most recent articles in the philatelic press, the whole range of literature, classic and modern, appears to have been laid under contribution, and the result has been the collection of a series of authorities which we venture to affirm will lighten the task of all future historians, and render this work *the* repertory of all authorities for time to come.

The only objection we feel disposed to take is, that the author gives much greater credit to his readers for extensive acquaintance with the authorities referred to than the reading of most—even well educated—men could boast; but in these days of book making we are loth to find a fault in that which so honourably distinguishes this work.

The limits of our space, as well as the design of our magazine, prevent us from entering into anything like a critical analysis, and we the more readily refrain as the author adheres to his pledge, and contents himself with recording facts rather than advancing theories. What is thought in Paris of the work may be judged from the highly laudatory and lengthened *critique* which has recently appeared in the *Journal des Débats*.

Suffice it, therefore, for us to say that since stamp-collecting has been a recognised pursuit no such serious contribution to its literature has appeared, and those who at times share the reproach of the pursuit may feel that a work like the present redeems its votaries from all just cause of exception. From all true collectors thanks are due to Baron Rothschild; while the concluding lines of the book, in which an international foreign postage, at cheap rates, is advocated, are marked with the spirit of enlightenment which has rendered his family name so honoured in Europe, and show that the attentive study of the science tends to enlarge the views and encourage the development of those broader principles which have rendered the British postal service at once the admiration and model of the civilized world.

We ought to add that the book is printed in clear type, on excellent paper, and is a pattern of a substantial, plain, well got up work. Its price (3 francs) can hardly defray the cost of production. We hear the first edition is already exhausted, and that a second may shortly be expected to appear.

OBITUARY.

THE death of a gentleman who in his day did much to advance the interests of philately—Monsieur JUSTIN H. LALLIER—is announced in the current number of the *Gazette des Timbres*. We are sure the news will be received by all our readers with sincere regret. M. Lallier's principal work was the album which bears his name. In later years its value to collectors of postage stamps has been impaired by the inclusion within its pages of space for a number of fiscal stamps; but the early editions were an unqualified boon to collectors, for they first rendered possible a scientific arrangement of the various emissions. M. Lallier, at his decease, was in his fiftieth year.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POST INTO JAPAN dates back but a very few years indeed, yet 2,500,000 letters were already carried by the native post last year.

THE POSTAL-CARD MANUFACTURE AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS., are now shipping 700,000 and 800,000 cards daily, and will soon increase the number to 1,000,000. The es-

timate of the Postmaster-General was that 100,000,000 postal-cards would be purchased this year. Up to this time—less than three months since they were issued—over 50,000,000 have been ordered, and the probabilities are that the consumption this year will be double the estimate.

OCEAN POST CARDS.—The negotiations which were being carried on between our government and that of the United States for the issue of threehalfpenny post cards, to which we alluded in a recent number, have, according to *The Times* Philadelphia correspondent, suddenly failed. The British postal authorities decline the proposition, which originated on the American side, on the ground that they do not wish to reduce the postage below the present rate of threepence per half ounce. We accept this intelligence with much reserve.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A HOME-MADE PERMANENT ALBUM.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In continuation of the letter you kindly inserted in your June number, I proceed further to describe my album.

I may as well state, to commence with, that I am a follower of the so-called English school of Philately; not a bigoted one, but simply because I cannot afford to make anything like a perfect collection on what I acknowledge to be the more scientific principles, and have at the same time a laudable ambition to make one which shall be perfect, as far as possible, of its kind; the arrangements I am about to describe are only suitable to collections of a similar nature to my own; the pages I described in my last letter, may of course be used for a collection of any description.

My arrangement is somewhat similar to that adopted by Lallier and other makers of albums, in which a ruled space, more or less appropriate in size and shape, is allotted to each stamp; but my great object has been to improve the appearance of my pages, by making the spaces considerably larger than the stamps which are to occupy them, and I think I need hardly assure you that the improvement is immense; I give to each stamp of ordinary size, such as the English and French, a space of 1 1-9th inch wide, and 1 3-10th inch deep; this allows of three rows of eight spaces each, as the utmost that can be placed on each page, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ inch at the top and bottom, inside the margin line, and half the width of one of the spaces at the sides and between the rows. For larger stamps, I of course make larger spaces, and only two rows on each page.

I have attempted nothing in the way of elaborate ornamentation, as I do not consider that anything more ornamental than the stamps is required. I simply rule the lines in Indian ink, and print the name of the country in block letters at the upper left-hand corner, and the date of each issue immediately above the spaces for it.

I secure each stamp in its place with a small hinge of thin paper; postcards and whole envelopes I secure in a similar manner, attaching the hinges to the latter at the edge furthest from the stamp, and placing them on the page in such a manner that they may lap over one another, and only show the stamp, and so much of the envelope as is necessary, the hinges allowing of their being turned up for the inspection of the flap ornaments, &c.

With regard to the arrangement of the issues of particular countries, I do not think that I have any very original suggestions to offer, except that I have placed

those of Germany and of Austria and Austrian Italy in two rows on each page, placing in the former case the silber groechen above the corresponding kreuzer series, and in the latter, the kreuzer issues above the corresponding centesimi and soldi, calling them simply Germany and Austria, believing the division into North and South Germany to be somewhat arbitrary, and that the soldi issues were *not* employed exclusively in Austrian Italy.

With many apologies for troubling you again with so long a letter,

Norwich.

I remain, yours truly,
CHETH.

THE CHILIAN ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The 20 c. envelope has at length put in an appearance, and, as you will see by the specimen I have the pleasure to enclose, is of a rather unwieldy size, which is the only one in which it is to be issued.* Of the 10 c. and 15 c. there will be no varieties of size; of the 5 c. the two already in use; while of the 2 c. there will be three, two corresponding to those of the 5 c., and the third the smallest of the series. The last-mentioned envelope has not yet been issued, but its appearance cannot be delayed very much longer.

All the 15 c. and 20 c. which I have seen are on white paper, which leads me to believe that the delicacy of the colours will not permit of their being stamped on tinted paper. When it was announced that all the values were to be printed on three kinds of paper, it had been decided to entrust the making to the American Bank Note Company, and to have them stamped in the colours of the corresponding adhesives, which are the reverse of delicate.

I forgot to state above that the 20 c. was issued at the beginning of this month.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Valparaiso.

L. W. MEYER.

* [The 20 c. Chilian envelope received measures 7 inches by 4 inches.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S. PRAHRAN, Victoria.—We are much obliged for the specimen of the halfpenny Victorian stamp, the only one we have yet seen. It is described in the present number.

W. S. G., Manchester.—Many thanks for communication of the stamp and post card issued by the private Berlin office, and described from your specimens in our last.

E. P., St. Petersburg.—We are glad to find the article published in these pages on the Russian locals meets your approval, and shall look forward with pleasure to receiving the statistics you so kindly promise.

PERPLEXITY.—The three transverse bars by which numbers of Spanish stamps are obliterated, are not a postmark properly so called, seeing that the stamps on which they figure were never used on letters. They are the remnants of unused stock, and to prevent their being fraudulently employed, they are cancelled in sheets by means of these bars.

MR. FRANK A. GRAY, Philadelphia.—Our publishers have no copies of the 18th edition of their Price Catalogue on hand.—Some of the numbers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* are out of print, but most of them can be obtained at 5d. each, post free. The prepared covers will hold twelve numbers including advertisement sheets.

SPANISH PHILATELICO-LEGAL
CHRONOLOGY.

BY DON M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

(Continued from page 101.)

1854.

1st September.—That the stamps for the internal correspondence of the towns shall be sold at two *cuartos*; those for letters, circulating throughout the kingdom, at four *cuartos*; and for double-weight letters, at eight;* those for the Antilles, at one real; and those for the Philippines, at two reales. That the currency of the new stamps for Spain shall commence on the 1st November (1854); of those for the Antilles, on the 1st January; and of those for the Philippines, on the 1st April (1855).

(The statement made at p. 41 of M. Moens's work, *Les Timbres-Poste Illustrés*, to the effect that the 2 c. of the issue of November, 1854, was intended solely for service in Madrid, is erroneous, for the decree clearly states that it was to be employed in *all the towns in Spain* for the district correspondence).

15th December.—That the postage stamps to be issued in the ensuing year (1855), shall bear the bust of the Queen, and in order that every care and precaution may be taken in engraving the dies, to prevent forgery, the issue shall not take place until the 1st April.

18th December.—Concerning the conveyance and prepayment, by means of stamps, of the correspondence between the Spanish Colonies and the metropolis.

1855.

8th March.—That on and after the 1st April the stamps with the bust of the Queen will be used, and that the governors of provinces are charged to see that proper supplies are distributed to the offices.

26th June.—Price of the colonial stamps, and mode of prepaying the letters between those parts and Spain.

28th September.—That the prepayment of periodicals by means of postage stamps will be permitted by the central administration.

* Although ordered by the decree, the eight cuarto stamps were never issued [M. P. de F.]

28th December.—That whereas some of the postage stamps are printed on bluish and others on white paper, the stamps of both classes may be accepted as genuine, provided they answer the necessary conditions in all other respects.

1856.

15th February.—That after the 1st July, the prepayment by means of stamps of all the public correspondence of the peninsula and the adjacent isles will be obligatory. That the postage of printed matter shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps, and that of periodicals by an impressed stamp;* the journals which do not bear it will be stopped.

11th March.—A list is forwarded to the civil governors of the authorities and functionaries entitled to use the official stamps, with a request that care be taken to supply them with the said stamps.

13th March.—That the prepayment of periodicals by means of an impressed stamp, shall be extended to those addressed to the colonies.

4th April.—Treats of forged stamps and their employment notably on letters from Seville, indicates the differences which exist between them and the genuine stamps, one of which is that the imitations change colour when held before a fire.

11th April.—That stamps printed on continuous paper, and without any transparent marks, may be accepted as genuine, provided they fulfil the other conditions of authenticity, and that advice must be given to the governor of the province whenever a letter is met with bearing a false or washed (*qy.*, chemically-changed) stamp.

21st June.—That postage stamps may be received in payment of the stamp duty on periodicals.

26th June.—That when an unpaid letter is observed bearing the words "have no stamps," the postal administration shall give notice of the fact to the director of the finance department.

* That is to say a stamp struck on the journal itself. For full details of the different types of impressed journal stamps in use in Spain, the reader is referred to an article by the present writer, published in the Madrid journal, *El Averiguador*, of the 15th Aug., 1871 [M. P. de F.]

11th and 22nd August.—That the public correspondence of authorities who are entitled to use the official stamps, with others who have not that privilege, shall be delivered to the latter, subject to the obligation of representing the postage by means of ordinary stamps, which shall be attached to the letter, obliterated in the receiver's presence, and kept by the department to serve as vouchers.

6th September.—That when a letter is observed to be prepaid with false or doubtful stamps, such as have been noticed on letters from Ecèja and Malaga, it shall be forwarded under cover to the postmaster of the town whence it was received, in order that he may institute inquiries with a view to trace the fraud.

27th October.—That no consideration shall be shown towards *employés* who neglect to take the measures prescribed by the decree of the 16th March, 1854, for the detection of forged and used stamps.

23th November.—That pending the issue of official stamps in the colonies, letters to the authorities of the Peninsula shall be delivered free, provided they are addressed "On Public Service," and bear the stamp of the forwarding official.

1857.

2nd January.—Refers to the newly discovered, fraudulent practice of varnishing stamps, in order to render more easy the effacement of the obliterating marks, and makes applicable to this practice the provisions of the decree of the 16th March, 1854.

17th March.—That the stamps which pay the postage paid on letters returned from abroad, must be stuck on the envelope (*sic*), and obliterated with a pen-and-ink cross, instead of with the usual handstamp.

16th and 24th June.—That the correspondence of senators and deputies shall circulate free when it bears an impression from the special stamp inscribed, *Senado* or *Congreso de los Dipulados*, and that letters addressed to the said senators must be prepaid by the senders.

12th July.—That many official letters are forwarded which do not bear the official stamps according to the regulation, therefore, postal *employés* are warned to be strict in

enforcing the law, and not to allow the unstamped letters to circulate.

13th August.—Gives a description of the differences between the genuine stamps and certain counterfeits discovered in Almeria, in order that the vigilance of the postal officials in detecting the frauds may be redoubled.

14th September.—That the surplus stamps in branch offices shall be obliterated by means of a pen-and-ink cross.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 101. Decree of 8th Oct., 1853. For "the stamps of that value will consequently be issued," read "the 3 cuartos stamps will consequently be sold at one cuarto."

THE CITY DELIVERY POSTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

BY C. H. COSTER.

(Continued from page 70.)

THE CALIFORNIAN PENNY POST CO.

A. (vide vol. x. page 149).—A third variety has just appeared. It is of the value of 7 c., on an extra large letter-size envelope. The word FOR is replaced by CARE OF (in script). No. and STREET are in ordinary script, instead of backhand, and the sentence commencing "The party," &c., is omitted altogether.

E.—This was briefly noticed on page 67, but the accompanying illustration renders further comment unnecessary. On the reverse is printed THE PENNY POST COMPANY, OFFICE, 135, CALIFORNIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO. LETTERS ENCLOSED IN THE ENVELOPES OF THE PENNY-POST COMPANY AND DEPOSITED IN ANY POST-OFFICE, ARE DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAILS IN SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON, BENECIA, MARYSVILLE, COLOMA, NEVADA, GRASS VALLEY, MOKELUMNE HILL.

F. (also illustrated) is printed on an ordinary buff envelope, prepaid by a 3 c. stamp of the 1851 issue, and dated February 21.

N. B.—The electrotypes differ in many particulars from the original envelopes, but are sufficiently close to give a pretty fair approximate idea.

TO THE PENNY POST CO.



For

No.

Street,

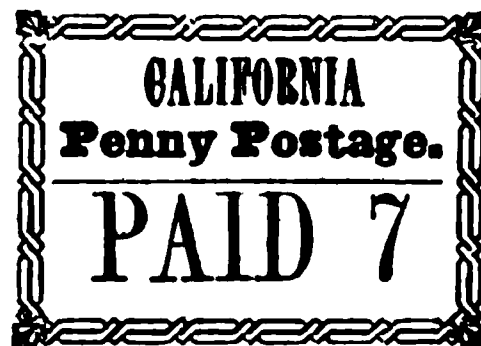
CAL.

The party whose name is on this Envelope is hereby authorized to open the same and appropriate its contents.

Postage must be paid in advance, otherwise your Letter will not be forwarded.

Copy-Right Secured.

LETTERS enclosed in these Envelopes, Papers, and other mail matter, Small Parcels, Daguerreotypes, &c., directed to the Agent of the Penny-Post Co. and deposited in ANY Post Office, will be delivered immediately on the distribution of the Mails, in SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, MARYSVILLE and STOCKTON, and in these cities only for the present.



The writer requests the Post Master to deliver this to

Agent of the Penny-Post Co.

SAN FRANCISCO,

CAL.

Box 5,005.

The P. P. Co. will please deliver to

S. W. COLLINS, Front Street.

ON THE VARIOUS MODES OF PRINTING POSTAGE STAMPS.

A PRIZE ESSAY.

By Dr. MAGNUS, Editor of *La Gazette des Timbres*.

THIS subject is one of the most important which could possibly engage the attention of stamp amateurs. From its careful study is derived the means of gaining, in many instances, a more perfect acquaintance with stamps and the power of distinguishing counterfeits,—those plagues to young collectors. That it is the only means, we do not pretend to say; on the contrary, we willingly recognise that the study of watermarks and perforations will render no less important services, as also the comparative analysis of the details of the design. But very often the mode of impression alone will suffice to determine the rejection of a false stamp. This point of view seems to us to have been singularly neglected by English amateurs. We frequently admire the scrupulous care which they take to describe every particularity of the design which forms a test of genuineness; but they appear hardly to think of the efficacy of that simple statement,—the true stamp is typographed, the false is lithographed. We may mention, for example, the essays published in last year's *Philatelist*, referring to the issues of Orange Free State, Salvador, Sydney N.S.W., Costa Rica, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., Straits Settlements, Bolivia, and (more recently) Cuba and Nicaragua.

The excellence of this mode of distinguishing the true stamp from its counterfeit, is explained by the very *raison d'être* of the false stamps. When a stamp is issued for a postal service, so large is the number printed off, that the engraving expenses spread over the whole, are reduced to next to nothing. The forger, on the other hand, can only count on a restricted number of amateurs. Hence he finds himself obliged to employ a less costly method than that of engraving in *taille-douce* or *epargne*.* Above all, he cannot obtain the assistance of distinguished artists, such as those employed by the governments, whose self-respect would forbid their lower-

ing themselves by contact with unworthy counterfeits. It is, therefore, generally speaking, on lithography that he falls back; and acquaintance with this fact may lead to the rapid discovery of the fraud.

It is at this point of view that we place ourselves in making the following examination; and without dwelling on any other considerations, we will enter at once on the subject. In putting the question which forms the object of this article, the editor of *The Philatelist* certainly had not the intention of requiring a minute description of the processes employed in printing. We believe we are thoroughly satisfying his desire in explaining, as clearly as possible in their principal features (1), the different kinds of engraving; (2) lithography; (3) the impressions which it is possible to obtain from the plates; and, lastly, the means of distinguishing between the products of these methods. That is the course we shall pursue.

The plate whence the impression is taken may present itself under three different aspects. The design of the stamp may appear either sunken, or in relief, or on an entirely level surface. To these three conditions of the plate correspond three modes of printing; but it is indispensable that we should first explain the preparation of the plate, in order to make the system of printing comprehensible.

In the first mentioned process, as we have said, the design of the stamp appears sunken. After having reproduced the details of the design on a metallic plate, covered with a coat of varnish, the lines are all cut into the metal by means of a burin. Only the blank portions remain untouched. Or else the lines are cut in the varnish down to the surface of the metal, the varnish in the lines is removed, and an acid poured over the plate, which fills the cuttings, and so bites into the plate itself, as to produce thereon the corresponding hollows. When the acid is considered to have acted sufficiently on the metal, it is washed off, the plate is cleaned with some spirit, and then the finer lines are touched up with the burin. This mode of engraving is called *taille-douce* (copper-plate) engraving. When it is desired to take an impression from the plate, the ink is made

* The explanation of these terms is given further on by the author.—ED.

to penetrate into the sunken parts by means of a pad; and the plate is then carefully wiped, so that no trace of the ink may remain on the untouched portions. The sheet of paper applied to the surface, and submitted to a strong pressure, takes up the ink in the furrows; and when it is withdrawn, the design appears on it. But, and this a very important circumstance to be immediately noted, the cuttings in the plate seem to produce corresponding projections on the surface of the paper. This is easily explained; those parts of the sheet covered by the design have, by the pressure, been to some extent driven into the indents on the plate to take up the ink.

Taille-douce engraving is practised on copper and on steel. Printing from plates is also called *taille-douce* printing. The old "native" stamps of Mauritius, engraved by Mr. Barnard; the 1853-4 Luzon, the Sydney views, the laureated New South Wales (rough stamps, on which it is most easy to recognise the standing out of the ink), afford philatelists the opportunity of thoroughly acquainting themselves with this system of impression and its characteristics. Among other better-engraved stamps, we may mention the English penny and two-penny, the first two emissions of Belgium and Saxony, the Neapolitan, and Sicilian stamps; and, in general, the United States stamps, and those of other American States, which emanate from the *ateliers* of the American and the National Bank-Note companies, respectively.

In the second process, the design appears in relief. In this instance, the burin removes all which is *not* design, that is to say, the blanks. This is called *épargne* engraving, or cutting in relief; thus named because the parts which bear the design are *éparnés* (preserved), and because they form the relief. The roller, impregnated with printer's ink, leaves the ink on those portions of the surface which are in relief. The sheet of paper, applied to the plate and submitted to the necessary pressure, is covered with the details of the design; but whilst in the preceding process the design causes those parts of the paper on which it is received to project, in the present instance, the contrary

effect is produced: the printed portions produce an indent on the front or the surface of the sheet, and a corresponding relief at the back. More than this, when the pressure at the back of the sheet is at all strong, the intermediate blank parts of the design (which are cut into the plate) cause a slight bulging of the surface of the paper, which might be taken for a faint embossment. This may be perceived on the Swiss stamps (Helvetia full-faced), and the stamps of Bavaria with numeral in centre. When, instead of a design, the stamp is composed of an assemblage of printing types, the result is the same. Hence the name, typographic impression. We may cite as examples, the current stamps of Great Britain, and of the greater portion of the British Colonies on glazed paper, emanating from Messrs. De La Rue's manufactory; the Hawaiian stamps with numeral in centre, those of France, Spain, Modena, Parma, the Roman States, Tuscany, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, and many other countries; for it is by means of the typographic process that the majority of the stamps now in circulation are obtained.

In the third method, the surface whence the impression is taken is quite level. We refer to the lithographic process. Everybody knows that Aloys Senefelder was its inventor. A particular calcareous stone, which is almost peculiar to the neighbourhood of Solenhofen, being obtained, and the side which is to be used for printing being sufficiently levelled and pounced, the design is drawn with a pen dipped in a greasy ink, or with a greasy pencil, and the operation is terminated by the application to the entire surface of a liquid composed of a solution of gum, acidulated with hydrochloric or azotic acid. The object of the acidulation is to clean the stone, and fix the writing, or design, by rendering the ink or other substance insoluble in water. By this means, these two substances, combining with that of the stone, render the latter insensible to the action of the oily matter contained in the printing-ink. The roller, full of ink, runs over the surface of the stone, and adheres only on the lines of the design or writing, the water, applied to the surface by means of a sponge, preventing the ink from penetrating at any

other point. It only remains to place the sheet of paper and pass the stone under the rack, or the compressing cylinder. The result of this system of printing will be a design which causes no bulging of the surface either in front or at the back, but, on the contrary, gives the paper a glossy look.

Thus we have summarily indicated the three modes of printing.

1. Taille douce.
2. Typographic, or *épargne*.
3. Lithographic.

It is unnecessary to remind the reader that the operation may be effected either by means of a hand-press or a steam-press, the results not being affected by the machine employed. Nothing seems easier, at first sight, than to distinguish the products of the different modes. Let us see what are the difficulties which may render the distinction exceedingly embarrassing.

Engraving in *taille-douce* is generally done on copper or steel, but a lithographic stone may be employed; in which case, a coating of lamp-black mixed with gum-water is applied; and the design is cut through the coating down to the stone, by means of a steel point or a diamond. A pad charged with a greasy ink, and passed across the stone, does not affect the gummed parts; but the ink penetrates in the exposed portions, and forms on its contact with the stone an insoluble soap. The rest of the impression is the same, but the first proofs will possess the relief which characterises *taille-douce* impressions,—a relief which will gradually disappear with the wearing of the stone. As an instance of this kind of printing we may mention the 2d. Victoria (Queen on throne); of which the first copies, coloured brown, have quite the appearance of *taille-douce* impressions; whilst the later specimens, blackish or a violet tinge, show no trace of the characteristic relief, but present a blurred ground, the design having been partly effaced by long use of the plate.

Typographic printing is executed either by the aid of a composition of printing types, or by the aid of a plate engraved in relief. In many cases wood-engraving suffices for the service required. Woods of the closest and finest grain are chosen, such as box or

pear. They are cut crosswise, that is to say, in the contrary direction to that of the fibres, so as to prevent their catching under the action of the tool. Copper and, above all, steel are worked in the same manner as in *taille-douce* engraving, only the work is inverted, and the entire sheet of dies is made up by *clichés* obtained from the original matrix. As examples of *épargne*, or relief, engraving on steel, and of the typographic printing of the designs thus produced, we may refer to the stamps of the French Republic and Empire, engraved by M. Barre. The type was multiplied by M. Hulot, by means of the electrotyping process, and the copper dies thus obtained have been endued with the firmness and resisting-power of bronze, by methods known only to him. Electrotyping is not the only way of obtaining *clichés*. Formerly they were got by striking; and it is by a revival of this old method, that the head of Mercury, engraved by M. Barre for the Greek stamps, was multiplied.

Latterly, photographs of designs have been obtained on metal plates, and fixed thereon by means of acids. This process, however, has not, as far as we know, been applied to the fabrication of stamps; but in some collections of engravings may be seen proofs of dies, which, were they but properly worked and touched up, might give excellent results. We mention this merely in view of what may happen at some future time.

Instead of multiplying the original dies engraved in *taille-douce* or in *relief*, recourse is frequently had to lithography to effect the multiplication. And here we may appropriately mention that, as only a limited number of proofs can be obtained from the original matrix-stone, it is by means of transfers that the design is multiplied. Impressions from the matrix-stone are taken on autographic (prepared) paper, which is then placed face downwards on a new stone, and wetted on the opposite side. When passed under the press, the design abandons the paper, and is transferred to the stone; and this operation can be repeated as often as may be desired. The same process may be employed for the multiplication of proofs from a die engraved in *taille-douce*, or in

relief, on the sole condition that lithographic ink be used to obtain the copy which is to be transferred to the stone. It will be perceived that the copies thus obtained, partake at once of the characteristics of lithographic impressions, and of typographic or *taille-douce* engravings. As examples of these different kinds of transfer, we may point to the Bergedorf stamps (originally lithographed), the Oldenburg stamps of 1851, 1858, and 1860 (originally engraved in *taille-douce*), and the Liberian stamps (engraved in the first instance on wood). All these stamps have been multiplied by lithographic transfers. The stamps of Liberia present even this special characteristic, that there are at least three several transfers; for though the stamps of one and the same value are all identical, the external line-frame shows a different arrangement, according to the period at which the transfer was effected.

Thus, then, we have summarily indicated the three kinds of impression. Let us briefly run over the means of recognition.

Taille-douce.—The lines of the design standing out in relief on the *front* of the sheet, in consequence of the visible thickness of the ink; traces of strong pressure at the back.

Typographic.—Design in relief at the *back* of the sheet; slight relief in front of the blank parts; no apparent thickness of ink.

Lithographic.—No relief of the ink in front; no relief at the back. More or less remarkable glossiness of the paper.

These are the distinctive characteristics; but they are sometimes difficult to recognise.

Thus, for instance, how shall we discover the peculiarities of typographic impression in stamps which have been pressed under a cylinder? For a reply we can but repeat the excellent recommendation which we found in a recent article by Mr. Pemberton,—“Learn to examine stamps; learn their peculiarities, their styles of engraving. . . Study your specimens, and you will find an imperceptible sense come to you.”

POOR LETTER H.—Sir Rowland Hill made a good remark upon hearing the power of the letter H discussed, whether it were a letter or not. If it were not, he said, it would be a very serious affair for him, for it would make him *ill* all the days of his life.

THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF FIRST ISSUES.

BY THE REV. ROBERT BRISCO FARÉE.

It is curious to look back into the past, and note the slowness of most of the great European Powers to take up our invention of postage stamps. We might certainly have thought that after the plan had been once started it would be hailed with pleasure by the officials of all countries, and adopted at once; whereas, the list shows us that for three years we were alone in our use of postage stamps, and that the idea took actually *ten years* to travel to such places as Austria, Spain, and Prussia! And who were our first imitators? Not the great powers of Europe, not the busy centres of the world's industry, but an out-of-the-way Swiss canton, and a far-away South American kingdom! We should have prophesied something far different from this, especially when we remember how apt men usually are to take advantage of the useful inventions of others. But if some of these countries were late in availing themselves of Sir Rowland Hill's plan, they have most amply made up (at least, in the eyes of philatelists) for their dilatoriness, by the constant succession of new stamps which they have issued ever since they commenced using them. Take the three countries of Austria, Spain, and Prussia, mentioned above—Spain especially—though they allowed ten years to elapse before they took any advantage of the invention, yet the pages in our albums dedicated to the said countries make a goodly show. Indeed, Spain has hardly let a single year go by since the date of its first postage stamps, without bringing out a new issue; and philatelists have learnt to look for a new issue of Spanish every year as naturally as they look for the commencement of another volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. The reader will remark that out of the whole thirty-three years, only two (1841-2) were unmarked by new issues. For the last three years there have been very few countries to be added to the list,—but this is easily explained by the fact that there are really not many civilized countries now which do not enjoy the benefit of postage stamps.

However, we need not grumble at this, for I fancy that if, from this date, no more new stamps were to be issued for any country, the stamps already existing would give us employment for years to come. The table given below I have compiled chiefly from M. Moens' catalogue, in which the dates are, for the most part, trustworthy. If, however, there are any errors, I am open to correction.

TABLE OF FIRST ISSUES.

- 1840.—Great Britain.
 1841.—*Nothing*.
 1842.—*Nothing*.
 1843.—Brazil, Zurich.
 1844.—Geneva.
 1845.—Basle, St. Louis, New York, Finland, St. Petersburg.
 1846.—Providence, R. I.
 1847.—Philippine Islands, United States.
 1848.—Russia.
 1849.—Bavaria, Belgium, France, Vaud, Winterthur.
 1850.—Austria, Austrian Italy, Baden, British Guiana, Hanover, Italy, Mauritius, New South Wales, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Spain, Switzerland, Tuscany, Victoria.
 1851.—Canada, Denmark, Neuf-hâtel, Oldenburg, Trinidad, Wurtemberg.
 1852.—Barbados, Brunswick, Chili, Holland, Luxembourg, Modena, Parma, Papal States, Réunion, Sandwich Islands, Thurn and Taxis.
 1853.—Cape of Good Hope, Portugal, Tasmania.
 1854.—India, Norway, Western Australia.
 1855.—Bremen, Cuba, New Zealand, South Australia, Sweden.
 1856.—Corrientes, Finland, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Montevideo.
 1857.—Ceylon, Lübeck, Mexico, Natal, New Brunswick, Pacific Ocean Steam Navigation Co., Peru, Russia, St. Helena.
 1858.—Argentina, Buenos Ayres, Moldavia, Naples, Nova Scotia.
 1859.—Bahamas, Hamburg, Ionian Islands, New Granada, Romagna, St. Lucia, Sicily, Venezuela.
 1860.—French Colonies, Grenada, Helsingfors, Jamaica, Liberia, Malta, New Caledonia, Poland, Prince Edward Island, St. Thomas.
 1861.—Bergedorf, British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Confederate States, Greece, Navia, Queensland, St. Vincent, Sierra Leone.
 1862.—Antigua, Costa Rica, Hayti, Hong Kong, Livonia, Nicaragua.
 1863.—Bolivar, Turkey, Turk's Islands.
 1864.—Dutch Indies, La Guaira, Levant, Mecklenburg-Strelitz.
 1865.—Bermuda, Bergen, British Honduras, Drontheim, Ecuador.
 1866.—Cashmere, Danubian Steam Navigation Company, Deccan, Egypt, Honduras, Servia, Shanghai, Tammersfors, Virgin Islands.
 1867.—Bolivia, Guadalajara, Heligoland, San Salvador, Straits Settlements.
 1868.—Antioquia, Azores, Drammens, Fernando Po, Madeira, North German Confederation, Orange Free State.
 1869.—Gambia, Sarawak, Transvaal.

- 1870.—Alsace, Angola, Cundinamarca, Paraguay, St. Christopher, S. Thomé e Principe.
 1871.—German Empire, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan.
 1872.—Fiji Islands, Portuguese India.
 1873.—Iceland, Curaçao, Dutch Guiana.
 (1874.—*Loanda? Macan? Montenegro? Persia?*)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

BOLIVAR.—A series of four stamps for this sovereign state has just come over. The design is a lithographed one, of no remarkable beauty. The arms of the Colombian Federation, drawn on a diminutive scale, and surmounted by nine dots, intended to do duty for stars, appear in the centre of an uncoloured circular disk, round which runs the inscription **ESTADO SOBERANO DE BOLIVAR**. Above the circle, in the upper margin, are the words **CORREOS DEL ESTADO**, and in the lower margin the value in words. The numeral of value, accompanied by some very primitive-looking ornaments, fill up the spandrels. The entire design is in colour on white. The values are as follows:—

5 centavos	blue.
10	„ mauve.
20	„ green.
80	„ vermillion.

We have no information as to the date of emission, nor, in fact, any other particulars respecting the series, of which we have, however, received specimens from a very trustworthy source.

SPAIN.—The dilatory postal authorities of this distracted country have at length made up their minds to issue post cards—in 1874, or later. They have given hostages of their sincerity to public expectation by adopting a design, and, if we are not mistaken, printing off a supply of cards in readiness. Thanks to Mr. Ysasi's courtesy, we have before us one of the intended cards, and find it will compare favourably in appearance with the emissions of its nearest neighbour. It is of rather large size, and the legend and stamp are enclosed in a tooth-patterned border. In the centre of the card, near the top, is the impressed stamp.

which is none other than our old friend the current Belgian arms type, modified to suit the circumstances. In place of the crown and lion on the Belgian stamp, we have on its Spanish imitation a small oval disk, containing the bust of the goddess of Liberty, crowned with the Phrygian bonnet, and a scroll with the word CORREOS on it replaces the Belgian motto. The figure of value (5) appears on a solid oval disk, as in the Belgian, and a portion of the word CENTIMOS below it. A lion, better drawn than that on the Belgian stamps, and looking to the right, hides the lower part of the oval disk, and keeps guard over a kind of ball placed by his side. Below him is the word ESPANA in coloured letters. Maltese crosses fill the upper angles of the stamp; in the lower are square disks containing rosette ornaments. Altogether, the type must be pronounced a successful one. The Spanish artist has in some respects improved on his model. The only thing we are surprised at is the prominence given to the lion. In the posture in which it is represented it no longer forms the armorial bearing of Arragon; and in any case the propriety of representing the bearings of one province, to the exclusion of those of the others, may be questioned. As a Spanish national emblem, we believe we are correct in stating the lion does not exist. The modest bust of Liberty marks the form of government under which it is expected the cards will be issued; and the words REPUBLICA ESPANOLA, in large letters, form an arch across the centre of the card—an arch which, however, is broken by the stamp, there being thus a word on either side. Below the impressed stamp is the inscription TARGETA POSTAL. Then comes the place for the address, and below that the customary notice, to the effect that the communication must be written on the back. The stamp and the external frame are in blue, the legend is black, and the card itself a dull white.

With regard to the Don Carlos stamp, of which we recently gave an illustration, M. Moens, who was the first to receive it, affirms its genuineness in the most positive manner, and ascribes to malevolent motives the adverse judgment of the *Gazette des*

Timbres referred to in our last. It results, however, from M. Moens's own statement that the employment of the stamp is not obligatory, because the Carlists not being in entire possession of the four northern provinces, it has not yet been possible to make any durable arrangement. It was expected when our contemporary wrote this explanation that ere long a service of couriers would be established, but since then the prospects of the Carlists have taken rather an unfavourable turn. Moreover, in all the letters from special correspondents which we have perused we see no mention made of anything approaching a postal service, and we recollect that one correspondent thought himself very fortunate in being allowed to send his letter in Don Carlos's bag. It is true a Reuter's telegram from Bayonne, dated 30th Sept., states that a one real stamp has been issued, but we should hesitate to accept any unsupported statement of that kind, seeing that, as a rule, the information respecting stamp issues communicated in such haphazard way to newspapers is rarely to be trusted. Perhaps this telegram, together with M. Moens's information, may be taken to indicate an intention to issue a one real stamp, of which a supply has already been printed in readiness. If any specimens have already been used by members of the Pretender's army, it can only have been in an irregular sort of way. Had a postal service, however primitive its nature, been formally established, such an important political act would have received the utmost publicity; and if there be no such service in existence, we do not see any room for the employment, in the legitimate sense, of postage stamps. Hence we are inclined to look on the design which has made its appearance as at present nothing more than that of a projected stamp. One word in conclusion. M. Moens says the supply has been printed either at Bayonne, or in London. It would not add to our confidence in the "aspirant's" genuineness were we to find that London was the place of its nativity.

Before leaving the Spanish stamps we must mention that the colour of the 10 pesetas is not green, but violet-brown.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Mariopol* (Ekaterinoslav).—The design here represented was described in our last, and we need only repeat that it is printed in black on white.

Biejetsk (Tver).—The Biejetsk stamps have been doing postal service by stealth for some time past, and will not now blush to find it fame. It is desirable to know, and to have all the local stamps issued; were it not so we might almost regret the unearthing of such an insignificant type as the one here represented. Ugly type-set stamps are always fruitful in varieties caused by the dropping of a letter, the omission of a comma, the misplacing of a section of the design, and other similar causes; and the Biejetsk stamps are no exception to this rule. We, however, hardly feel justified in taking up our space with a description of them; suffice it to say, that the type is printed in black on green paper.



Maloarchangelsk (Orel).—The word *archangel*, which occurs in the name of this district, might lead us to expect that its armorial bearings would



include the representation of some celestial being, and a casual glance at the type here represented would tend to confirm the supposition; but, on a closer inspection, the winged

creatures which occupy the shield turn out to be badly designed heraldic eagles. The upper compartment of the shield presumably contains the arms of the government, and the lower those of the district, and between the two the differences are comparatively slight. The impression of this tolerably commonplace design is effected by hand, and is consequently very rough. The colour is black on white. This type was described a couple of years since in the catalogue to which, for brevity's sake, we generally refer as the "July list."

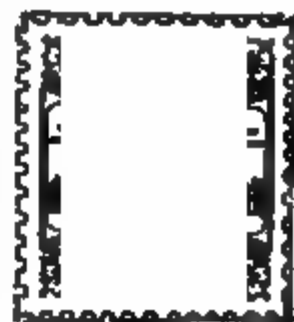
MONTENEGRO.—It appears that on the projected series the value will be expressed in *soldi*, and not in *novich*, as at first stated. The colours are as follows:—

2 soldi	yellow.
3 "	green.
5 "	rose.
7 "	violet. (?)
10 "	blue.
15 "	bistre.
25 "	violet-brown.

With the exception of the 7 soldi, the colours and values are those of the current Austrian set.

VICTORIA.—The provisional halfpenny adhesive, described in our last, has been followed by a newspaper wrapper, bearing an inscription from the die of the current penny green, with the value reduced to a halfpenny, by means of the surcharge described by us. The wrapper provisional stamp is in every respect identical with the provisional adhesive.

JAPAN.—The 2 sen red, issued at the beginning of the year, has already been superseded by a 2 sen yellow, of which we have just received specimens. The new comer presents the old design, which we here reproduce.



ECUADOR.—Specimens of the three "suspects,"— $\frac{1}{2}$ rl., 1 rl., and 1 peso,—of which engravings were given in our January number, have just been received by a very respectable firm; and this fact, coupled with the information obtained concerning them by M. Mahé, encourages us to place faith in them. The yellow 1 real, on *papier quadrillé*, has just been received by M. Moens obliterated 15 Nov., 1865. As this value was issued in 1865, the variety referred to belongs to the first edition thereof, instead of to the last, as hitherto supposed.

HELGOLAND.—We have to thank a well-known dealer for communication of a $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. with inversed colours,—rose disk, white spandrels, and green border. This may either be a second issue, as our correspondent supposes, or, as we are inclined

ourselves to believe, either a trial stamp or a printer's error.

NORWAY.—The new series has received an addition, in the shape of an unexpected value, a 7 sk. chocolate, of the same design as the other recently issued stamps.

TURKS ISLANDS.—From a letter we publish in our correspondence columns it would appear that there is a probability of the stamps for these islands being withdrawn.

QUEENSLAND.—A correspondent informs us that the shilling stamp is now printed in claret.

DUTCH INDIES.—*The Philatelist* says that a 5 cent post card for Java will shortly be issued.

ROUMANIA.—In *Le Timbre-poste* for September it is stated that the post cards are very popular in Roumania, and that three editions of the known type have been issued, viz:—

1st edition, 3000 single, 2000 double cards.

2nd „ 30,000 „ 15,000 „

3rd „ 50,000 „ 20,000 „

The first edition is on white, the second on brown, the third on buff-coloured card, and on the third the arms are smaller.

PORTUGAL.—The same journal publishes information of the appearance of the 240 reis of the new type, and we are also indebted to it for the following paragraphs.

PERU.—The 2 centavos is now line-pierced on colour.

TASMANIA.—The 3d. has come over printed a dark violet-brown.

JAMAICA.—The issue of the 1d. and 1/- with c.c. and crown watermark, completes the series with that watermark.

SAINT LUCIA.—The sixpence is now printed in pale mauve.

SWITZERLAND.—Newspaper bands bearing a 5 c. stamp of the new type struck in rose, have recently appeared.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist for October is a readable number, although it does not contain any very important news. We are glad to see that in respect of the Pahlunpoor humbugs the editor has taken up the same position as that which we ourselves adopted. Mr.

Durbin's article, "A few Words of Advice to young Collectors," on which we commented last month, is reprinted, as is also an interesting paper, originally published in *The New York Journal of Commerce*, relating "How the United States Postal Envelopes are manufactured." From this we learn that the *line* envelopes (*qq.*, envelopes with lines for the address) must under the contract be gummed by hand, and this is how it is done:

After they leave the cutting-rooms, they are sent to the gumming-rooms. Here they are laid out on rows of boards or tables, fixed above each other, so as to slide in grooves that are cut in upright boards placed at each end of the systems of tables. Behind these tables are adjustable step-ladders, for the operator to stand upon and reach any desired height. After the patterns are arranged upon the tables, each pattern projecting half-an-inch beyond the other, a girl goes over them lightly with a paste brush. This is the branch of work in which it is most difficult to secure competent hands. The least slip destroys a number of patterns and creates trouble, as every imperfection is noted, and involves an alteration in the accounts. Some of the girls who do this work, however, gum 50,000 per day; and it is found that the fastest gummers usually do the best work. The next part of the work is stamping, which is done on twenty machines, made especially for the purpose.

The other envelopes which do not require to be hand-gummed are fabricated by means of automatic presses, in which the sheet of paper, already cut by a pattern-knife to the desired shape, is thrown on parallel bars, on which, by other machinery, it is worked through all the operations of gumming, folding, and stamping. "Thus," says the article, "by automatic movement an envelope pattern put into the feeder goes suddenly through the several stages of manufacture, and drops out on the lower side a perfect stamped envelope." This puts us in mind of the mythical machine at Cincinnati, into which a pig enters alive at one end, and a few minutes after comes out as sausage meat at the other.

In the Spud Paper Mr. Earée discusses sundry Hanoverian forgeries. Those of the first issues are distinguishable by the fact that they are lithographed and unwatermarked, and that the thin inner line of frame is often so blotched as to touch the outer one, besides which the lion and unicorn show several points of difference. The 3 pf. rose and the same value green can be detected by there being only 30 lines in the oval, whilst on the genuine stamps there are 32. In the

genuine specimens of the head series, outside the circle between it and the border, there are two vertical lines of groundwork on the left-hand side, and one on the right; in the forgeries there is only one of vertical groundwork lines to be seen on either side. For the $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen black the following is the recipe: *Genuine*, 10 small pearls and 1 large one outside the crown to right, and 9 small and 1 large to left. Inside the wide mouth of post-horn are 17 lines of shading. *Forged*, 11 small pearls and 1 large one outside the top of crown on each side. Inside the mouth of the post-horn there are only 13 lines of shading.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The leading article in the current number is entitled "The *soi-disant* Pahlunpoor Stamps," and in it their claims to acceptance are most mercilessly demolished by Dr. Magnus on the facial evidence they themselves afford, whence it is apparent that the concoctors of these fictitious stamps were misled by the results of Mr. Pemberton's study of the round Cashmere type. Dr. Magnus, possessing probably no information as to these Pahlunpoor impositions, deserves great credit for having extracted from them, by his own unaided investigations, the proofs of their worthlessness.

The American Journal of Philately.—The numbers for the 1st and 15th September are before us, and contain some good reading, and notably an article on post cards. The writer affects to believe that the silence of the English journals on the subject of post cards, from the time when the first Austrian came out until the appearance of the English cards, was the result of pique at the invention of so useful a system by foreigners; but seeing that there were no cards issued during the time when we were silent, we hardly see that the writer makes his point as far as we are concerned. In fact, from a quotation which he makes from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* of 1869, it is evident—and we lay claim to the honour with pride—that we were among the first to perceive the real and immense utility of an innovation which was characterised by one of our *confrères* about the same time, as "a vagary"!

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Heligoland.

Red is the strand,
White is the sand,
Green is the band,—
These are the colours of Heligoland.

AND red, white, and green, are the colours of the stamps of the little "rabbit-warren" off the German coast, which, though an English possession, contains probably not a single English inhabitant, except the governor. Its stamps bear the profile of the Queen, but are fabricated at Berlin, and their denominations are expressed in the Hamburg currency.

Heligoland, or Holy Land, is a sandy patch about a mile long, and never more than half that distance broad. There are about 390 houses on the high ground, and 78 fishermen's huts in the lower part. There are 2000 people on the island, and "no end" of rabbits. The Heligolanders, besides postal communication and other proofs of a high civilisation, can boast of a "national" debt of £5000, and until a few years back, of a number of highly popular gambling "hells," which were summarily suppressed by the governor.

The exportation of fish brings in about £10,000 a year, and yields a livelihood to the fishermen, whilst the people in the high-town derive their means of subsistence from the visitors, of whom there are a great many from Hamburg and its environs.

The island became a British possession in 1807. A short time ago it was reported that Prince Bismarck had his eye on it, and that the government intended to cede it to Germany for a consideration, the negotiations, however, if any were really opened, dropped through, and at present there is no reason to doubt but that the stamps which form the subject of the present paper will long remain current.

The series as originally issued consisted of four values,— $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., 1 sch., 2 sch., and 6

schilling. The design is the same for all, but in the printing the changes were ingeniously rung on the traditional colours,—red, white, and green, as follows:—

Coloured Lettering on White Ground.

$\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, central oval, green; spandrels, rose; border and lettering, green.

1 schilling, central oval, rose; spandrels, green; border and lettering, rose.

White Lettering on Coloured Ground.

2 schilling, centre and spandrels, green; ground of frame and corner figures, rose.

6 schilling, centre and spandrels, rose; ground of frame and corner figures, green.

The issue took place on the 15th April, 1867. All four values were rouletted. The type is printed in two operations, one for each colour, there being separate dies for the border and the centre; and the first supply was rouletted. The green employed was a rich chrome-green, and the rose might, perhaps with more accuracy, be termed carmine. The profile of the Queen is in relief, and some attempt seems to have been made to impart an appearance of maturity to its lineaments.

In 1869 the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. made its appearance perforated, and printed in a delicate light-green of an emerald tint. In 1871 the 1 sch. was likewise issued perforated.

The emission of two new values— $\frac{1}{4}$ sch. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch.—has been so recently adverted to in these pages as to render unnecessary any but the briefest reference. Nor does the issue of the large unstamped post card require more than a passing mention.

Holland.

The Dutch stamps, though far more numerous than those of Heligoland, present an equally clean record, and consequently offer no difficulty whatever to the student. The first series was issued on the 1st January, 1852. It consisted of three values—5 c. blue, 10 c. lake-red, 15 c. orange,—which are all very common. The design is simple, but well engraved. The stamps are below the average in size, and are water-marked with a post-horn. The only gene-

rally accepted variety is the 5 c. dark blue, which contrasts very decidedly with the ordinary light blue stamp. Mention, however, has been made of a jet-black 5 c., of which a postmarked copy has been seen. This cannot have been other than a specimen of the well-known proof in that colour. M. Moens catalogues dark and light shades of the two other values, but these distinctions are rather fine.

The first series held on the even tenor of its way, without any change whatever,

for rather more than twelve years, when the adoption of the system of perforation was made the occasion for the issue of a fresh type. The second series consisted of the same three values as its predecessor. The 10

cents appeared on the 12th of May, 1864; the other two denominations some months afterwards. The type is even more simple than that of the first. No attempt whatever is made at ornament, beyond the sketching of an almost imperceptible pattern on the oval frame. The colours differ only in shade from those of the corresponding values in the first issue, and collectors who have a partiality for colour varieties may distinguish (as Moens does) a 5 c. blue and dark blue, a 10 c. red and bright red, and 15 c. orange-yellow and orange.

A third series was issued in 1867, consisting of six values, namely, the original three, and three higher denominations,—20 c., 25 c., and 50 c. The design is a more embellished one than that of the former types. The King's profile, which is very well engraved, is turned to the left; a rather heavy border runs up the sides; and the name of the country NEDERLAND—figures above the portrait. The colours are well chosen, and help to render the series an effective one, viewed as a whole. Blue is again allotted to the 5 c., but this time it is bright ultramarine; the 10 c. appears in red and carmine-rose;

whilst the 15 c. takes a reddish brown hue, approaching to "burnt sienna." Of the new values the 20 c. is a rich dark green, the 25 c. violet, and the 50 c. gold.

In 1868 the advent of newspaper stamps was inaugurated by the issue of the 1 c. black and 2 c. yellow, of the annexed type. The latter is still in use, but the 1 c. changed its coat in the following year, and appeared in a light, delicate green. In 1869 the $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. rose was issued, and in 1870 the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. lilac-brown, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. mauve made their *début*.

Three different sizes of perforation were indifferently used for the 1867 series, but only one for the newspaper stamps. All the values of the 1867 type, and also all the newspaper stamps, exist unperforated, and specimens are sufficiently numerous to admit of their being quoted at comparatively low figures in the leading continental catalogue; but no price is entered for obliterated copies, and it is permissible to conjecture that the unperforated issue was never even intended for sale to the public; they, therefore, cannot rank as "oversights," and are entitled to a very low rank as varieties manufactured only for the benefit of collectors. The 10 c. carmine-rose on bluish paper is, however, a genuine variety, and as it was issued in 1871, its currency was of short duration; it is, consequently, rather rarer than the ordinary stamps.

In 1872 the current series was brought out. It excited much admiration from its delicacy of execution, and is sufficiently well known to render description superfluous. It is merely necessary to observe

that it comprises a stamp of which the facial value slightly exceeds four shillings, and it may not be inappropriate here to remark that the Dutch cent is, roundly speaking, worth two French centimes.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Two unpaid-letter stamps of the annexed type made their appearance in 1870:

5 cent. brown on orange.
10 " violet on blue.

These stamps are perforated, but unperforated copies are known to exist.

POST CARDS.

The Dutch, though they have no stamped envelopes, possess those more generally useful innovations—post cards. In 1871 a stampless card was issued, but was soon followed by a card bearing an impressed $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp, consisting of the central device of the newspaper type—arms in a circle, name above, and value below—in the upper right corner. Both cards are of a pale buff colour, and the stamp, the ornamental frame, and the four-lined legend in the lower margin, are in lilac. In 1872, a second card was issued differing from its predecessor in the absence of the marginal legend and in the colour of the impression, which is a reddish lilac. Of this latter type a "reply-paid" card was issued, consisting of two leaves folded like a sheet of paper, with the inscriptions for the "reply" half printed on third page. A kind of "post card" has been issued by a private society of commissionaires at Rotterdam, but it has really nothing whatever to do with any postal service.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS.

The name of the Dutch essays and proofs is legion. There are 700 varieties of one of the essay types, and proofs in all the colours of the rainbow of the adopted designs. Their value to a beginner is nil, nor can they be of much interest to a collector, seeing that they merely prove the speculative tendencies of the engravers or printers.

THE FRANKFORT NEWSPAPER
STAMPS.

RATHER more than eight years ago, the Frankfort stamps made some little stir in the philatelic world. In the third volume



of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* the attention of collectors was called by Mr. Overy Taylor to Dr. Gray's description of a "dentated adhesive" stamp, the design of which consisted of a spread eagle, with FREIE

STADT FRANKFURT

above, and ZEITUNGS-STEMPEL below, in an oval. This reference gave rise to inquiry, and it was found that the type described by the learned doctor, and at first considered to be apocryphal, did really exist, but instead of taking the form of a dentated adhesive, it existed as an impressed stamp, that is to say, as a stamp struck by hand on the newspaper sheet itself. It was furthermore stated, that it represented not merely the postage, but also a newspaper duty, and the propriety of collecting it was questioned. There the matter remained, and the Frankfort hybrid, after a fitful appearance in the catalogues and magazines, disappeared from philatelic ken. From a communication, however, which has been made to us by a correspondent, in whose integrity we place every confidence, it would seem that but for the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, which proved the signal for the extinction of so many series of stamps, we should have made the acquaintance of the above design as what it was originally described,—a "dentated" adhesive stamp.

Our contributor sends for our perusal a letter he has received from an intimate friend at Frankfort, who is the son-in-law of one of the co-proprietors of the *Frankfort Journal*. The writer explains that, owing to this relationship, he had access to the offices of the paper, and in one of the editor's drawers he found a strip of twenty-five specimens of the Frankfort newspaper

stamp, gummed and perforated, and of the value of one kreuzer. These stamps were intended to replace those printed on the sheets themselves. They would have been issued on the 1st January, 1867, but for the Prussian occupation of the city, and would have been for sale *auf dem Rechenei Amt*.

The twenty-five specimens found by the writer are probably all that now exist. They show the design, struck in black in rather a rough way, on rather thin, wove, yellowish white paper. The perforations are small, complete, and very neatly done, and form a rectangular frame to the oval design. The impressions appear to be handstamped, and are evidently from a well-worn die. They are kept pretty well in a straight line, but not at an even distance from the other; some of them touch at the sides, and the perforations run into the black line formed by the overlapping of the borders.

These stamps must always remain very scarce, and although even had they been issued they would not have been entitled to the consideration accorded to "thoroughbred" postals, they still possess considerable interest as indications of a projected advance in the issue of stamps on the part of the Frankfort authorities.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE JAPANESE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.—From Tokio (Japan) the following interesting details were forwarded to the *Gazetta de Venezia* on the 1st of May: "The postal system has, among others, been organized in a satisfactory manner. The letters from Europe arrive here by the English post from Yokohama, are handed over to the Japanese administration, and after their addresses have been translated into Japanese, they are distributed, and that generally with great punctuality. The telegraph service is not so well organised. As far as Yokohama, Nagasaki, Tokio, and other accessible localities, the telegrams generally arrive with security when the lines are once properly established, but in the interior it is not the same thing, the telegraphic wires being often maliciously cut, notwithstanding the heavy punishments which have been decreed for this kind of offence. Speaking of the telegraphic service, I must tell you in what an ingenious manner the enormous difficulty of telegraphing in the interior of the country in Japanese and in Chinese have been overcome. Those languages do not lend themselves to the operation, being composed, as is known, of a great number of signs and connecting marks. In consequence, out of the mass, 4000 words have been chosen, with which almost every idea can be expressed. These words have been numbered 1 to 4000, and by telegraphing the figures, correspondence by wire becomes easy.—*Journal Officiel*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS ACT, 1873.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—By the above act, after reciting that it is desirable that the Turks and Caicos Islands should cease to have a separate government, and that they should be annexed to, and form part of the Colony of Jamaica, it is enacted that, "it shall be lawful for Her Majesty by Order in Council, on addresses from the Legislative Bodies of Jamaica and of the Turks and Caicos Islands to declare that the said Turks and Caicos Islands shall, from a date to be therein mentioned, be annexed to, and form part of the colony of Jamaica, on such terms and conditions as Her Majesty shall think fit to appoint." The Act received the royal assent on the 4th April last, so that the transfer may, ere this, have been completed by Order in Council. It seems not unlikely that one result of the annexation may be the suppression of the three Turks Islands stamps, and the substitution of those used in Jamaica.

Yours truly,
G. H. H.

Manchester.

QUERIES ABOUT STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—With your permission, I should like to ask those collectors who are well up in philately a question or two, respecting which I am in doubt.

1. Have the stamps of the countries named below ever been seen postmarked? As far as my experience goes, used specimens are unknown.

Angola (either of the values).

Bolivar (ditto).

Bolivia, 500 centavos black.

Baden, "Land-post."

Bergedorf, $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling lilac, and 3 sch. black on rose.

Canada, 12d. black.

Cuba, 1862, $\frac{1}{2}$ rl. black.

Deccan (either of the values.)

"Fiji Times Express."

Great Britain, "V.R." 1d. black.

Hamburg (unperf.), 7 schilling mauve.

India (head in oval), 2 annas green.

Ionian Islands (either of the values).

Mexico (eagle), 3 centavos brown.

New Brunswick (Connell), 6 c. brown.

Moldavia (first issue, circular).

Pacific Steam Navigation Co.

Reunion.

St. Thomas and Principe (either of the values).

Service (arms), either of the values.

Shanghai (first issue).

Spain (1857), 12 cuartos orange.

Montevideo, "diligencia" (either of the three).

2. Why cannot any value but the penny envelope be obtained at the English post-offices? I believe there are also in existence 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. embossed envelopes, but of what earthly use can they be to the general public, if they cannot be obtained in the usual way, like other stamps. It would seem that by requiring persons to send to Somerset House, and there to undergo all the irritating routine inseparable from a government office, the authorities have no desire that these higher values should be generally used. Adhesives of corresponding value are purchased in immense quantities; and doubtless there would be a proportionate demand for the envelopes if they were more accessible. In that case, even stamp collectors would be no mean customers.

3. Are the 1851-60 United States stamps good for postal purposes at the present time? To my knowledge they have been offered, unused, in complete sets, at much below their facial value; and from this fact I am inclined to believe they were withdrawn from circulation at the outbreak of hostilities between North and South.

Apologizing for taking up so much space,

I remain, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

London, N.W.

C. J. KILLICK.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

K. WILLIAMSON, Cardiff.—We are glad at all times to receive suitable information for our columns, but we cannot undertake to insert everything that comes to hand.

C. J. SMITH, Norfolk.—The firm you ask about is still in existence, but have removed their business from Birmingham to Dawlish, South Devon, to which place address your letter.

L. C. K., York.—In December next, you may procure of our publishers the 1873 volume of this magazine, complete, in stiff paper covers, post free for 4/-. None of the other volumes have been published in this cheap form, but most of them can be had in cloth gilt for 6/6.

J. RAWLINGS, Rugby.—*The Stamp* was a fortnightly publication, published at 5d. The first number came out on July 1st. The latest we have had sent us is No. 5, for 1st September, and we believe this is the last that was published. There are now four numbers due.

AN OLD COLLECTOR asks, "Where are all the early writers on Philately?" And he mentions several by name, including Mount Brown; Frederic Booty; Dr. J. E. Gray; Edward Oppen; Thornton Lewes; Henry Whympers; Berger-Levrault; Bellars & Davie; Lyman Bagg; W. Vipond, &c. Echo answers, "Where?"

C. MORGAN, Abergavenny.—*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* was commenced in February, 1863, and is now, therefore, in its eleventh year. Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C., are the London publishers, of whom your bookseller may easily procure copies through his London agent, or you may subscribe direct through the Bath firm.

P. R. SCHOLEFIELD, Bradford, Yorks.—Your stamps, without exception, are utterly worthless, being badly-executed forgeries. You have only yourself to blame for being so easily cheated. Good and genuine stamps can only be obtained from respectable dealers, who have a reputation to maintain; and you cannot expect to buy a dozen rarities for as many pence. We have again and again, in these pages, cautioned our readers against the attractive announcements of certain Glasgow and Hull dealers.

H. T. H., Newham.—1. The covers sold by our publishers are the same as those used for the advertised bound volumes.—2. There is no 48 sk. post card for Denmark, and if you will refer to vol ix., p. 90, you will see that the values quoted are 2 and 4 sk. The engraving of the 48 sk., on p. 89, was inserted in the framework of the post card merely to show the type.—3. We very much doubt now whether an English edition of Berger-Levrault's catalogue will ever be published, and we fear that the 6th edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue will not make its appearance for some time to come.—4. Your envelope with 50 surcharged Indian "Service" stamps attached to it possesses no special value, the number of stamps does not in itself render the envelope interesting.

IMPORTANT.

DURING the last few years, nearly every commodity and luxury of life has been "going up," and our readers have become so familiarised with strikes, advances in wages, and increase in the price of coal and a thousand other necessities, that they will hardly feel surprised to find that the price of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is, in its turn, to be raised. In point of fact, our publishers have not to complain of failing circulation, but of an augmentation in the cost of the magazine, and they find themselves in the presence of two alternatives: either the dimensions of the journal and the number of illustrations must be reduced, or the price increased. They have chosen the latter, for a reduction in size might be looked on as the sign of a decadence which is not felt. In their opinion, which we feel confident the decision of our readers will ratify, a diminution in the number of pages, the employment of an inferior paper, and a reduction in the number of engravings, would be greater evils than a comparatively slight increase in price; for there is in reality no lack of interesting and instructive matter wherewith to fill the magazine; and our publishers' impression, which we share, is, that the engravings, though they add largely to the expense, form too important an aid to the study of a subject which imperatively requires pictorial illustration, to admit of their employment being restricted to special occasions only.

Our publishers, in whose name we are authorised to speak, are far from being anxious to obtain a direct profit from the issue of the magazine. Without pretending to affirm that they carry it on purely from disinterested motives, we can, at any rate, say, that as philatelists of long standing themselves, they are principally desirous of placing within the reach of stamp collectors throughout the world a trustworthy journal, devoted to the study and advocacy of stamps, and will at all times be quite satisfied if they can do this without actual loss. For some time past, however, from the causes referred to above, they have

found themselves considerably out of pocket; hence the resolution to which they have come, to increase the price of the magazine to SIXPENCE per month, or Six Shillings per annum, the advance to take effect from the first of January next. This, although a high figure compared with the prices of popular journals, can hardly be considered excessive for a magazine which, treating exclusively of one subject only, enjoys of necessity but a comparatively limited circulation.

We therefore appeal to our readers to favour us with the continuance of the support we have so long enjoyed at their hands. We do not believe that the increased cost will lead to any falling off in their number. We beg them to be good enough to renew their subscriptions at their earliest convenience; and we, on our side, take leave to renew the promise we have repeatedly made, and never broken, to do our utmost to sustain and augment the reputation which in the course of eleven years *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* has acquired as the leading philatelic organ of the Greater Britain.

MR. PEMBERTON'S FORTHCOMING CATALOGUE.

WE are glad to be able to announce that Mr. Pemberton's promised catalogue, long looked for, is coming at last. The first part is announced for New Year's Day. The work will be completed in eight monthly parts, and we trust that they will be issued punctually, in accordance with the list given by Mr. Pemberton's publishers. One great feature of this compilation, which we have no doubt will prove of the utmost value to philatelists, will be its illustrations by photographic fac-similes of every known type. We have before us a specimen plate of these photographic illustrations, which are of rare excellence, and reproduce most faithfully the minutest details of the designs. The stamps represented are the Cuban essay, the suspected Ecuador types, the new 2 dollar United States departmental postage stamp, four values of the old, and five of the present, United States general issue, and the Spanish post card. The

capabilities of the process are most triumphantly shown in the reproduction of the 15 and 24 c. U. S., with the miniature copies of celebrated pictures in the centre: the originals themselves are scarcely clearer. The least successful is the Spanish post card: the pale blue of the border and stamp not having taken well. But there is a very simple means of overcoming this difficulty—at any rate, in the case of stamps which are not of great value—and that is, to change the colour, by the use of chemicals, from blue to black, or to some other dark colour which photographs well. This would not interfere with the faithful reproduction of the design, but as the stamp would be spoilt by the dyeing, the process could not be resorted to in the case of rarities.

Thirty-one plates, of the size of the specimen, will illustrate the work. There will be three in the first part, and four in each of the others. The price of the first part will be 1/1; of the subsequent issues, 1/7 each. The contents will embrace everything issued to the end of 1873—in other words, will consist of complete lists of adhesives, entire envelopes, post cards, bands, and locals; but only government adhesives and envelopes will be figured, as the illustration of locals, owing to their great number and variety, is almost impossible. That the descriptions will be correct, and in every respect trustworthy, we cannot doubt; the author's name is synonymous with philatelic accuracy, and our readers cannot do better than subscribe one and all to his catalogue. We the more readily lend a hand to secure a wide publicity to this work, from the knowledge that it has been undertaken rather with a view to the benefit of philatelists, than in the hope of making a profit out of it; indeed, so costly is the process of photographing the stamps, that the book, even with the large sale there is every reason to expect for it, can hardly prove a financial success. That it will greatly enhance its author's reputation is, however, unquestionable, for in its pages will be condensed the results of many years of study and arduous investigation, by which collectors throughout the world will not be slow to profit.

We purpose reviewing the parts as they successively appear. Meanwhile, we have pleasure in publishing this notice, and thus roughly delineating the shadow of a coming event.

THE PORTRAITS ON THE CURRENT ARGENTINE STAMPS.

UN (1) CENTAVO, violet.

GENERAL BALCARCE.—Deputy-Director of the United Provinces of La Plata in 1816; Governor of Buenos Ayres in 1832.

CUATRO (4) CENTAVOS, brown.

Dr. MARIANO MORENO.—Secretary to the Provisional Junta of Emancipation in 1810.

CINCO (5) CENTAVOS, vermilion.

BERNARDINO RIVADAVIA.—Distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of the Interior for the Province of Buenos Ayres; named on the 7th February, 1826, first President of the Argentine Republic; abolished slavery; was exiled in 1836, and died at Cadiz in 1845.*

DIEZ (10) CENTAVOS, green.

GENERAL MANUEL BELGRANO.—Member of the Provisional Junta of Emancipation (composed of nine members) in 1810. Gained the decisive battle of Salta on the 20th February, 1813.

QUINCE (15) CENTAVOS, deep blue.

GENERAL JOSE DE SAN MARTINO.—One of the officers who contributed the most towards the liberation of the provinces of La Plata, and the creation of the Argentine Republic. Died at Boulogne-sur-mer in 1850.

TREINTA (30) CENTAVOS, orange.

GENERAL CARLOS DE ALVEAR.—Supreme Director of the Republic of the United Provinces of La Plata in 1815.

SESENTA (60) CENTAVOS, black.

GERVACIO ANTONIO DE POSADAS.—Named in 1814 First Supreme Director of the Republic of the United Provinces of La Plata.

NOVENTA (90) CENTAVOS, blue.

GENERAL CORNELIO SAAVEDRA.—President of the Provisional Junta of Emancipation in 1810.

* See Biographical notice, *S. C. M.*, vol. iii., p. 85.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Hungary.

ONLY a feeling of respect for Lord Strafford's brief but expressive motto, "Thorough," induces me to refer to the issues of this semi-independent country after the careful analysis to which they have so recently been subjected by "A Parisian Collector" in his interesting notes. I have only to refer to those notes to obtain the materials necessary for the description of the Hungarian stamps of which only a single series, properly so called, has hitherto been issued; but as the historical importance of postage stamps can never be undervalued, I need no excuse for drawing attention to the remarkable change in the Austrian political system which led to their emission. It will be in the memory of most of my readers that in 1848 a terrible insurrection, which was only put down after a bloody struggle, took place in Hungary. The Emperor of Russia sent an army to assist his Austrian ally, who would otherwise have been overborne, and the Austrian General Haynau made his name hateful by his severity to the conquered Hungarians. The aspirations of the Magyar people, however, though crushed, could not be extinguished, and their smouldering discontent was a source of constant uneasiness to the Vienna cabinet. After the war of 1866, when Austria found herself excluded from the direction of Germany, and the empire appeared to be drifting into a state of disintegration, a different policy was inaugurated under the guidance of Count Benst. Conferences were held with the Hungarian leaders, and ultimately their demands for the recognition of Hungary as a separate state, coupled with the revival of its distinctive institutions, and a separate administration, were granted. Hungary ceased to be an Austrian province, and became a kingdom. An Hungarian cabinet was formed, and, as a pledge and confirmation of the agreement, the Emperor of Austria was crowned King of Hungary at Pesth, in June, 1867. Among the many changes which

followed this resurrection of a people, came the establishment of a postal service, which bore fruit in the shape of a series of adhesive stamps in 1871; but as early as the 1st November, 1869, a post card for Hungary was issued, and a year before that



two journal-tax stamps—used for the same purpose as the square Austrian stamps, which have always been admitted into collections—made their appearance.

Taking, however, the adhesives first, the principal thing to note is the existence of two series of the same type—one lithographed, the other engraved. The former, by reason of its brief currency, is becoming rare. The difference in the appearance of the two is sufficient to ensure their being distinguished even by a tyro.

Whilst the engraved type is remarkably well done, and clearly printed in bright colours, the lithographed is blurred, dull, and comparatively indistinct. To prevent needless repetition in respect of a well-known series, I take leave to refer my readers to p. 117 of the present volume for a list of the colours and denominations of each. Of the two journal stamps, the one with mouth-piece of horn to right was the first issued, and that with mouth-piece of horn to left is now in use.

Of the post cards, the first one, issued in 1869, might be taken for an Austrian; the inscription is the same as on the first Austrian card—CORRESPONDENZ KARTE and an impression from the die of the yellow 2 kr. Austrian adhesive figures in the upper right corner, but the arms are the Hungarian, and if any of my readers do not

know them, they have only to put an Hungarian adhesive by the side of the cards, and they will at once see if the shield is the same as that on the adhesive, or not. The incongruity of an Hungarian card with German inscription being soon perceived, the first card was superseded by one inscribed *LEVELEZESI LAP*, which, however, differed in no other respect from its predecessor. Finally, in 1870, a third card came out with the imprint of the 2 kr. Hungarian in the right upper corner, and the Hungarian inscription above given. Of this card two secondary varieties are known, and they complete the list of Hungarian issues.

Iceland.

To the recent emission for this country it is only necessary to refer *pro forma*. It will suffice to give a list of the values and colours, and to reproduce the type.

2 skilling,	blue.
3 "	grey.
4 "	rose.
8 "	brown.
16 "	yellow.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

(Same design, but different inscription).

4 skilling,	green.
8 "	mauve.

Ionian Islands.

n stamps belongs to the p-collecting. It is now on the cessation of the e, they were withdrawn m service, together with English officials. All ee values have now ob- ned a certain moderate ree of rarity, but the will be found in all old lections. The colours are — follows:—

Orange	(1 obolus).
Blue	(2 oboli).
Carminc-red	(4 ").

The blue has a reversed figure 2 for watermark, supposed to have some reference to the value, and the red a figure 1, for which no explanation can be found; whilst the orange is destitute of watermark. This series of stamps will certainly give rise to no difference of opinion or exercise of judgment in circulation. M. Berger-Levrault, it is true, reported the existence of blue stamps which appeared to be without watermark, but his conjecture has never been confirmed, and not even M. Moens has succeeded in discovering a noteworthy variation of shade; hence this series does not boast of a single "variety" of perforation, colour, or paper, and philatelists of all classes can accept it without difficulty in its entirety. The stamps have never been reprinted; not improbably the dies were destroyed in 1864, when the occasion for their employment ceased; and I have never even seen it stated by whom they were engraved. The type is very simple but very carefully executed, and the fine border-pattern reminds one of the English penny. Of forgeries there are plenty, but all I have seen are coarse lithographs, which could not "hold a candle" to the genuine impressions.

Italy.

The last emission for Piedmont—or as it is generally, but, to my mind, erroneously, termed, Sardinia—remained in use for some time after the assumption by Victor Emanuel of the title of King of Italy; but in the present paper it will I think be preferable to treat only of the stamps on which the change of title and extension of territory are indicated by the inscription. The first stamp answering to this description is a poor lithographic design, represented below—the 15 c. blue. This is inscribed *FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE ITALIANO*. It was issued on the 12th October, 1863, and, to judge from appearances, must have been in use a long while, although officially superseded in December of the same year by the series which bears the suggestive inscription *POSTE ITALIANE*. That series is still in use, and calls for only

a brief notice. During the ten years in which it has been current some slight accidental alterations in shade have taken place,

but they are hardly worth attention.

The designs themselves appear to have suffered very little, if any, deterioration from the continued wear and tear to which the dies have been subjected; though one value, it is true—the 15 c.—was

damaged at the time it was surcharged, and the retouching of the die gave rise to two varieties which are not without interest. All the designs are in De La Rue's best style, and the series as a whole must be pronounced an effective one. As originally issued it stood as follows:—

5 centesimi,	greyish green.
10 "	buff.
15 "	blue.
30 "	brown.
40 "	carmine.
60 "	lilac.
2 lire,	rosy red.

JOURNAL STAMP.

1 centesimo, sea-green.

In 1864 the state of the postal finances called for an increase in the rate for internal correspondence, from 15 centesimi to 20 centesimi for single-weight letters; and to provide a stamp answering to the advanced rate, the 15 c. was surcharged with a semicircular bar, obliterating the original inscription of value, and with numeral and letter in the corners. The opportunity was also taken advantage of to print this value in a darker shade—a kind of slate-blue. It was whilst the surcharging was in progress in London that an accident happened to the die, and the flaw thereby occasioned was concealed, pursuant to instructions from the Italian post-office, by the addition of four white dots in the oval frame—two on either side the portrait. These dots will be found, respectively, above and below the little ornament in the frame which separates the inscription in the upper from that in the lower half. From the original announcement of this addition in *The Stamp-Collector's*

Magazine for 1865 (p. 54), it would appear that the accident took place prior to the surcharging, and that copies of the 15 c. unsurcharged exist with the four dots; but this is certainly not the case, for I have myself a surcharged specimen without the dots, and in all the catalogues the four-dot variety is figured as a 20 c. Later on, a second accident happened, and eight more dots were added, making twelve in all. The eight are scattered about in the framework, "two in the left-hand upper part of the stamp, between PO and after E, and on the right between AL and below the letter N; in the left-hand lower part between the letters VI, and also the CI, and on the right between the EN and under the first I in CENTESIMI." In 1867 this provisional stamp finally gave way to the current 20 c. of which the type is special to that value.

This stamp exists in two well-defined and admissible shades—very light and very dark blue. It is a clearly designed stamp, but can hardly be compared with the others for richness of ornament.

The 10 c. has been issued in a very dark reddish yellow, and the 60 c. in bright lilac.

The 1 c. journal stamp—a gracefully executed stamp—was joined in 1865 by the 2 c., of which two tolerably clear shades exist—brown and dark brown.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

The unpaid letter stamps are not necessarily used only for letters which, presumably through the sender's neglect, have not been prepaid. Prior to the Roman occupation, at any rate, they were apposed at the frontier post-office on letters from the Papal States, as for lack of a convention

between the two countries, the Papal stamps only prepaid as far as the frontier. No doubt at present the "segna-tasse" stamps are used in some analogous manner, otherwise it is difficult to see what employment could be found for the high values, used specimens of which are, however, very common. The first "segna-tasse" stamp, issued in 1863, was a very mean-looking affair,



yet it remained current six years, and two varieties of it are collected—lemon and orange. In 1869 it was superseded by a carefully engraved but not over legible type (reproduced

below), and in 1870 the current series came gradually into use, with the exception of the 10 c., which was not issued until the succeeding year, in order to give time for the exhaustion of the 1869 stock. The 1 c., 2 c., 5 c.,

10 c., 30 c., 40 c., 50 c., and 60 c. have the numeral of value struck in carmine, and the frame buff. The 1 lira and 2 lire have the figure in brown and the frame in blue,

one frame sufficing for the whole of the values in *centesimi*, and one for the two values in *lire*, as is plain by noticing that the 1 centesimo reads 1 CENTESIMI, and the 1 lira reads 1 LIRE.

CORRIGENDA.

HOLLAND.—Thanks to a communication from Mr. C. van Rinsum, I am able to correct an erroneous statement with regard to the issue of the first post cards. The stamped and unstamped cards both came into use on the same day—the 1st January, 1871. The unstamped card, value one half cent, is still in circulation and is used for communications to foreign countries; an adhesive stamp of the necessary value being apposed to cover the postage. I was not previously aware of the existence of any

convention sanctioning the exchange of post cards between Holland and other countries, and should like to know what are the countries with which this arrangement is in force.

EXTRACTS FROM MY PRIVATE NOTE BOOK.

BY C. H. COSTER.

As may be surmised from the title, the object of these papers is to present, in a clear and concise form, sundry items of interest collected from time to time, and likely to prove useful to the philatelic community, and especially to those who devote particular attention to the stamps of the United States, including those of the "Confederacy."

We will commence by considering some of the postal labels issued by postmasters in the Southern States during the late "unpleasantness." First on the list comes the one for

RINGGOLD, GEORGIA.—This is a recent resuscitation made by Mr. William P. Brown, the well-known dealer, and although by no means "a thing of beauty," it is likely to prove "a joy for ever" to the fortunate possessor of the only known specimen. It is a very imperfectly handstruck impression on an ordinary buff envelope. The design consists of three concentric circles, of which the innermost surrounds what looks like a letter O surmounted by some sort of very rough ornamentation (possibly a cannon and flags may be intended). The second circle bears the inscription, RINGGOLD, GEORGIA, and the third, what I take to be C. S. POSTAGE (although only C. S. P. is visible) above, and FIVE CENTS below.

MARION, VIRGINIA.—I have a letter from J. H. Francis, formerly postmaster of Marion, to W. P. Brown, Esq., dated about two years ago, in which he states that the stamps issued by him were of the values of 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., and 20 c. Under these circumstances, are not the "recently discovered, though undoubtedly genuine," 2 c. and 3 c. rather suspicious-looking customers, especially as the die is still in existence, so that these additional values could easily be

"prepared to order?" What a wonderfully careful man the postmaster at Marion must have been to preserve all these uncanceled specimens, so that they look as fresh to-day as they did twelve years ago! Almost as curious as the way in which somebody's grandmother or grandfather (I am not good at relationships, but the principle is all the same) put away those stamps of Fredericksburg,—and in some sort of an "official envelope" too, so that of course their authenticity is at once placed beyond a shadow of a doubt.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.—I have recently met with two very good imitations of the circular stamp for this city, and append a list of the most salient points of difference.

GENUINE.	COUNTERFEIT A.	COUNTERFEIT B.
Of the three ornaments on the left-hand side of the circle, the lower half of the top one is very imperfectly formed; in fact, the bottom stroke is almost altogether wanting.	All the ornaments on the left-hand side appear perfect, but the middle one on the right-hand side is broken at the bottom.	All the ornaments are perfectly formed, but those on the right-hand side are considerably lower than those on the left.
In each ornament the lines separating the four dots are visibly curved.	The lines are nearly, if not quite straight.	The lines are very straight, especially on the right-hand side.
Take the upper half of the x of KNOXVILLE. There is no curve at the end of the hair line on the inside of the left-hand stroke.	There is a curve at the end of the hair line, which nearly touches the curve from the right-hand side.	The curve quite touches the curve from the right-hand side.
The o of POSTAGE is not very perfectly formed.	O of POSTAGE is very broken and irregular, and is also considerably out of line with the other letters.	No period between "C S"; O of POSTAGE is not closed at top, but it is otherwise perfectly formed. It is somewhat out of line with the other letters, and is very far separated from the s. There is a small dot under the c.

ATHENS, GEORGIA.—At Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.'s last auction sale I bought a copy of

this stamp, which turns out, on examination, to be very different from an undoubtedly genuine specimen, to which I have access. It may be that *both* are genuine varieties, but is it not a rather peculiar circumstance that while the auction variety is comparatively common, the other is of the greatest rarity?

I will proceed to point out a few of the leading differences.

UNDOUBTEDLY GENUINE.

PAID.—All the letters are about the same size.

Stars.—One on the right and one on the left are about on a line with the top of the word PAID.

Continue the line under PAID across the stamp on both sides, and you will find six stars below and six above.

A star is directly under the middle of M of "P. M."

Those odd-looking ornaments, something like a flattened-out 8, are about twice as long on one side as on the other.

A line drawn perpendicularly from the w of CRAWFORD, would strike the E of ATHENS.

The stamp is surrounded by two well-defined, perfectly-formed white lines, never touching each other, but always separated by a line in the colour of the stamp.

The genuine comes printed in red, also in dull mauve; the auction variety in a peculiarly plastery mauve.

PLEASANT SHADE, VIRGINIA.—The genuine is in every respect identical with type II. of the Petersburg stamp (which has been the subject of so much discussion), with the

AUCTION.

The D is out of all proportion.

The one on the left is nearly on a line with the top of the word PAID, but the one on the right is a good deal too low.

There are five below and seven above.

Star is directly under the first stroke of M, and the engraver's stool seems to have slipped, so that the first stroke is continued beyond its proper distance, and touches the star.

About the same size on each side.

A line from the o of CRAWFORD would strike the E of ATHENS.

The stamp is surrounded by two fine lines, very irregular and frequently merging into each other.

exception that PLEASANT SHADE is substituted for Petersburg, and R E Davis P M. for W. E. Bass, P. M., and the fleur-de-lis on each side of Virginia is dropped.

The punctuation, or lack of punctuation, of "R. E. Davis, P. M." is as given above, and alike in both genuine and counterfeit.

The lettering of the word POST-OFFICE is very different in the genuine from that of the imitation, though the only describable point of variance is in the s, which is very peculiar in the latter, it being finished off by a stroke which has very much the appearance of a comma.

IN THE GENUINE.

A line drawn across the stamp from the break between the first and second fleur-de-lis, would intersect PLEASANT SHADE.

In the word VIRGINIA the tail of the g does not extend perceptibly on either side further than the bowl of that letter.

The ornaments below VIRGINIA meet the side frames on either side, directly opposite the dot at the end of the central line of the third fleur-de-lis.

The first row of ornaments below POST-OFFICE meets the side frames just above the break between the fifth and sixth fleur-de-lis.

The ornaments on the left-hand of the figure 5 meet the side frames just above the break between the seventh and eighth fleur-de-lis.

N.B.—Owing to there being several varieties in the arrangement of the ornaments on the right-hand side in the genuine, no test can be given.

The ornaments above R. E. Davis, P.M., meet the side frames above the break between the seventh and eighth fleur-de-lis.

IN THE COUNTERFEIT.

A line from the central stroke of the first fleur-de-lis would intersect PLEASANT SHADE.

The tail of the g extends considerably on either side, and indeed the entire word VIRGINIA is larger type than in the genuine.

They meet the side frames almost opposite the break between the second and third fleur-de-lis.

They meet the side frames opposite the central stroke of the fifth fleur-de-lis.

They meet the side frames directly opposite the central stroke of the seventh fleur-de-lis.

The ornaments meet the side frames opposite the eighth fleur-de-lis.

INTERNATIONAL POST CARDS.

ALTHOUGH the issue of cards specially designed for international transmission has not yet become an accomplished fact, it is evident that it will not be long delayed. It will be remembered that a short time since it was rumoured that postal cards for correspondence between this country and the United States were to be emitted; then again it was stated that 2 cent cards were being prepared for use between Canada and the United States. These reports have been contradicted, but they were certainly only the shadows of coming events, as the following official notice, with regard to communications between the States and Newfoundland, will testify.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF FOREIGN MAILS,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 26, 1873.

An arrangement has just been concluded between the United States and Newfoundland, providing that on and after the first of October, 1873, United States postal cards mailed at any post-office in the United States, and addressed to Newfoundland, and Newfoundland postal cards mailed at any post office in Newfoundland, and addressed to the United States, *when prepaid an additional postage of one cent by affixing thereto an ordinary one cent postage stamp of the country of origin*, in addition to the stamp printed or impressed on the card, shall be reciprocally forwarded and delivered in the country of destination free of charge.

Postal cards of either country, when not so prepaid, will not be forwarded in the mails between the two countries.

The regulations and instructions governing the use and treatment of postal cards in the domestic mails of the United States and of Newfoundland, respectively, are equally applicable to the postal cards mailed in either country, and addressed to the other country.

Postmasters are instructed to carry this arrangement into operation on and after the 1st of October, 1873.

By order of the Postmaster General.

JOSEPH H. BLACKFAN,
Superintendent.

Who can doubt but that, to save the trouble of adding an adhesive to the impressed stamp, special cards will soon be prepared, nor that ere long the system will be considerably spread? Already, as appears from a statement in our correspondence columns, the exchange of post cards, with an extra low value adhesive affixed, is permitted between Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Decidedly among approaching postal innovations, international post cards hold the first place.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

TOLIMA.—The annexed type, discovered at the beginning of the present year, was generally admitted to be of doubtful value, and was condemned by our Belgian *confrères*. We, however, have just received from a trustworthy source, a specimen of a 15 centavos black, of the same type. It is on an envelope, side by side with the current 5 c. dark green Antioquia, and both stamps are obliterated by the same postmarks. This conjunction of two stamps of different states is in itself remarkable, and deserves explanation. The obliterations

consist (1) of a large double circle with an exterior diameter of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., with partially illegible circular inscription; (2) of the word FRANCO in large Roman capitals, in a straight line. Their genuineness appears to us to be unquestionable; and this much granted, the genuineness of the Tolima stamp follows. The 20 c. stamp of this type, here represented, and which we have not seen, was described by the editor of *The Philatelist* as rouletted, but the 15 c. black shows no sign of the roulette. Moreover, in our engraving, which is a fac-simile of the one given in *The Philatelist*, ten stars are shown above the condor; in the 15 c. stamp there are only seven, and the arms are considerably smaller, and not pointed at the base. Apart from these distinctions our engraving accurately represents the type, which is probably in reality common to both.

BOLIVAR.—From the information which accompanied the specimen of the new 80 c. described last month, we erroneously inferred that the design of that value, reproduced above *pour mémoire*, was common to the entire series. We are now, however, happy to be able to give illustrations of the three other denominations, each of which forms a different type. Of the four stamps, the 5 c. is perhaps the most remarkable, for its lateral inscriptions give the design the appearance of being printed in a continuous strip. No doubt the series is a newly-issued one, which replaces the insignificant set previously known.

BRAZIL.—We learn from our Rio correspondent, that there is a likelihood of a new series of postage stamps being issued, as the present postmaster does not view the existing series with favour, considering the stamps—and especially the 20 reis and 200 reis—to be too large and unhandy.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—The annexed type is destined, according to *Le Timbre-Poste*, in six months time, to supersede the very homely fac-similes of the original Danish design, which have so long been in use in St. Thomas. The new stamps are modelled on the current Danish; paper, perforation, and watermarks are the same in both. The inscription DANSK-VESTINDISKE is intelligible, but we are not at all clear as to the meaning of the concluding word OER. The values and colours of the forthcoming series are:



- | | | |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 cent, | frame, green; | centre, violet. |
| 3 " | " blue; | " carmine-rose. |
| 4 " | " brown; | " blue. |
| 14 " | " lilac; | " green. |

These stamps will prove pleasing additions

to a page which has hitherto been conspicuous for its dulness.

SPAIN.—The annexed cut represents the design of the impressed stamp on the Spanish Republic post card.



With reference to our remarks respecting the prominence given to the lion in this type, a valued correspondent writes to say, that the lion has always formed part of the Spanish arms. This we did not con-

test, but we are surprised at his being represented to the exclusion of the other bearings.

To the same correspondent we are indebted for a sight of the new reply-paid card, which, like the single one, is intended to come into use on the 1st of January. The new card is the same size as its single brother. On the latter the inscription reads *TARGETA POSTAL*, on the double it is written *TARJETA POSTAL*. The orthographical error was pointed out by Señor M. P. de Figueroa, and, thanks to him, it has not been repeated. The general disposition of the reply-paid type is the same as that on the ordinary card, but the stamps are not the same. The half intended to be used by the sender bears a new design, consisting of the bust of Liberty surmounted by the traditional cap. Along the upper margin of the card runs the inscription *CONTESTACION PAGADA. TARJETA DE IDA*. The first two words signify reply-paid; the latter are difficult to translate, but may be rendered as "outward card," or "card to be sent." On the second half the words *CONTESTACION PAGADA* are repeated, and are followed by *TARJETA DE VUELTA*, or "return card." The stamp on the reply half resembles that on the ordinary cards in having a figure 5 in the centre, but the lion and bust of Liberty are omitted. In both halves the stamp and frame are printed green and the lettering black.

Our contributor also sends us some oddities which have passed the Spanish post. They are none other than the full size engravings of Californian local envelopes cut out from pages 150 and 151 of the last volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, pasted on cardboard, franked by stamps of the *Amadeus* and current series, addressed

on the front, and, after the fashion of ordinary post cards, bearing communications on the reverse.

ECUADOR.—Rehabilitation seems to be the order of the day. The genuineness of the three stamps referred to in our last, and originally described in our January number, is now admitted on all sides. We do not, however, regret having originally entertained grave suspicions as to their character. In the present day the extremest caution is necessary in accepting unaccredited individuals from far-off countries, as a recent example has proved.

SINERRA LEONE.—A correspondent of M. Moens's informs him he has seen a 2d. bright violet-red, of the same type as the four recently issued stamps.

NICARAGUA.—Just two years ago, the issue of the one centavo brown was announced as an accomplished fact, and a few specimens, we believe, reached this country, but since then but little has been heard of it. Our publishers, however, have at length received a supply, and there can now be no doubt that this value is in circulation. On examining the new comer, we find that some portions of the landscape have been cut away, the length and breadth of the space enclosed by the external frame being considerably smaller. This results from the shape of the frame. There are four large disks at the corners, and in order to get the straight borders between them on a level with the centres of these disks, it has been necessary to encroach on the design. Together with the 1 c. brown, our publishers have received supplies of the 2 c. blue, and 5 c. black. These stamps are now printed on a pure white paper, and the sun and clouds have been erased from the 5 c., leaving the entire space above the mountain-line blank. The 2 c., it should also be observed, is printed in a much lighter blue, of a shade quite different from that of the previous issue.

HELGOLAND.—It is now stated that the $\frac{1}{4}$ sch. with carmine disk, white spandrels, and green border, supersedes the same value with carmine border and green disk; if so, the latter, by reason of its brief currency, will probably become in time very scarce, provided no reprints be made.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Toula* (Toula).—Of the annexed engravings the upper one represents the design of a stamp embossed in white relief on the flaps of the envelopes issued by the Toula post; the lower, a blue stamp, handstruck on the reverse of the envelopes. The latter are of different sizes and tints. The inscription on the circular impressions signifies *Seal of the*

ЗЕМСКАЯ ПОЧТА
ПЛАТА 5 КОП

administration of the district of Toula; that on the oblong stamp—*Rural post, payment of 5 kopeks*. These stamps are introduced by M. Moens, as is also the following:—

Woltschansk (Charkoff).—There was some doubt as to the district from which this type emanates. It was stated at first to have come from Wolynka (Tchernigoff), but later intelligence,

which M. Moens has obligingly communicated to us, is to the effect that the stamp belongs to the Woltschansk district. The specimen from which our engraving was taken has been for upwards of a year in the possession of a correspondent of M. Moens, residing at Rome, and bears an indistinct obliteration. The impression is in black, with white lettering and frame, on a red ground; the animal, whatever it may be, is on a yellow ground.

Kotelnitsch.—M. Moens, in the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, gives the correct history of the Kotelnitsch emissions, accompanied by some interesting details, which we purpose reproducing *in extenso* in our next. Suffice it to say at present, that the suppression of these little known stamps was due to the decision of the district authorities, to deliver the rural correspondence free of charge!

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—By the kindness of "A London Collector," who has communicated the specimens to us, we are enabled to present engravings of the three new stamps of this Republic. They are all distinguished by the high degree of finish and general artistic excellence which characterises the productions of the New York companies, and the effigies they contain form a further contribution to the portrait gallery of the heroes of South American independence. In another part of the present number we give a list of the names of these worthies; we, therefore, need only repeat the mention already made of the colours, which are as follows:—



30 (<i>treinta</i>)	centavos,	orange.
60 (<i>sesenta</i>)	"	black.
90 (<i>noventa</i>)	"	blue.

The emission took place on the 10th October last.

GERMANY.—Reply-paid cards— $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. \times $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and 2 kr. \times 2 kr., have appeared. They differ from the ordinary cards in having a narrower frame.

FINLAND.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that in order to utilise the stock of post cards of the second type, the notice they bear has been completed by the surcharge in black of the inscriptions, in three languages, across the left-hand side of the card.

SWITZERLAND.—The same authority states that the 30 c. envelope, stamp to left, is issued without the watermark, the metallic design from which it is obtained being worn down to an unserviceable state. A correspondent, whose letter we publish, denies the statement quoted by us from the *Gazette*,

to the effect that 1 gr. German stamps are used to prepay letters from Switzerland to Germany. We are indebted also to this correspondent for the communication of a hitherto unnoticed Swiss official post card. It is very plain, and bears no impressed stamp. On the right is a dotted inscribed circle, to receive the stamp of the issuing department, and on the left a similar circle to receive the postmark. Between these is the inscription:—

NR. 4337.

CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE.

OFFICIEL.

Below which, in three languages—French, German, and Italian—comes the notice that correspondence not entitled to free transmission will not be forwarded. Then come the lines for the address, which complete the design, if so it may be called. The card is of a French-grey tint, and rather thin.

SHANGHAI.—The diagonal surcharge 1 CANT. has been struck in bluish black on the 2 c., 4 c., and 8 c. stamps. The surcharge noticed some months since was in pale blue on the 4 cents.

PHILIPPINES.—The “Habilitado” varieties for this colony now form a numerous series. The surcharge is applied to the obsolete types, which are being reissued, because, as M. Moens explains, the home government at present has so many grave affairs on hand, that it can spare no time to forward supplies of the new stamps to the colony. Hence the 10 c. rose of 1859 (4 varieties) has reappeared, and also the 2 rls. blue of the 1863 type,—all duly surcharged.

VICTORIA.—Mr. D. H. Hill, of the Treasury, Melbourne, has obligingly forwarded us, by the last mail, a specimen of a new twopenny stamp for this colony. The design consists of the usual profile of Queen to left in a broad oval, containing white inscribed labels above and below, and reticulated pattern at sides; a Greek-patterned ornament occupies each angle;—presenting altogether rather an effective appearance, though roughly executed. The watermark is a V and crown, and the stamp is printed a bright mauve, and perforated. We intend to give an engraving of this new arrival in the January number.

UNITED STATES.—In the specimen plate of illustrations of Mr. Pemberton's catalogue is an engraving of the two-dollar stamp for the Department of State,—a very handsome design. It is an upright rectangle, measuring nearly 2 in. by 1 in., and has a large sized bust of Seward in an oval in the centre, a bundle of *fascies* on either side, U. S. A. in the lower spandrels, DEPARTMENT OF STATE in two arched lines above the portrait, and the value in words in the lower margin. The bust and the oval ground are in black, the rest of the stamp is green. There are three other values of the same design and colours, viz., \$5, \$10, and \$20.

CABUL.—From advance sheets of Messrs. Grant's circular, kindly communicated to us, we clip the following information:

We have been favoured with the loan of five stamps, stated to have been issued by the Ameer of Cabul early this year. They are circular; but the round appearance is taken off by sundry ornaments outside the circle. The centre of each contains a tiger's head, and the value in Indian characters. They are all alike, but separately engraved, and the circular disc around the head is embellished by a flowing tracery, over which characters are engraved. This is similar to the ground-work of the rare Koorsbedjah, and to that which fills the centre of the one anna oblong Deccan, and is essentially oriental. The value is in the centre; in the three lowest values, above the tiger's head; in the two highest, below it. There are—

1 anna, black on thick white laid.	
2 " " "	
4 " " "	
8 " marone }	on thin paper, unsurfaced, no watermark.
1 rupee, "	

The 1 anna and 2 anna both show dotted circles; the 4 anna shows only the outer one dotted; whilst the 8 anna and 1 rupee have only plain circles.

NATAL.—From the same source we learn that the sixpence has appeared with POSTAGE surcharged on each side, to match the 1d. and 3d. The use of the lilac shilling (which is a fiscal), with POSTAGE surcharged on it, is mostly provisional; and the new batch of green 1s. will probably bear POSTAGE on each side, and complete the set.

GRIQUALAND WEST.—There appears to be some chance of the issue of a series of stamps for this district, better known as the Diamond Fields. We refer our readers, for information as to the present postal arrangements there, to the letter from Mr. Pemberton's correspondent, published in the above-named circular.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—The same publication states that the shilling stamps, cut in half, are doing duty as sixpenny stamps, and with regard to the solitary emission for

FERNANDO PO, it declares that "the stamp is most undoubtedly genuine," adding, "We know of many cases where they have been taken from letters, and can produce evidence of the fact." This statement is confirmed by Mr. Ysasi, to whom in this matter we owe the *amende honorable*. The stamp, it appears, was only in use for a few months in the course of 1868, which would account for its extreme rarity.

SAINT HELENA.—At last, says Messrs. Grant & Co.'s circular, the sixpence bears the c.c. and crown watermark, and is so issued in slate blue.

MEXICO.—The stamps of the current issue are now coming over in deeper and richer colours.

ROUMANIA.—The stamps of this country are printed in brighter shades.

JAPAN.—The 1 sen. now comes over in pale blue and in indigo.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The ninepence is printed dull mauve.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—In the article on recent and undescribed emissions we find a reference to the curious Jerusalem postmark described some months since. A correspondent has forwarded to the editor a portion of an envelope bearing this mark. This time the impression is on thin blue laid paper, and is unmistakably handstamped; had it been on thick, white paper, such as described by M. Moens, and cut out, it might easily have been mistaken for a postage stamp. In the usual place for adhesives, on the same envelope, were an 80 c. of the French Empire, and a 40 c. perf. of the Republic. The postmark in question is independent of these, and its lack of value as a mark of prepayment is now established. In the same article two more of the mysterious designs which our contemporary arbitrarily designates "Colonial Essays" are described. The only noteworthy item in "The Philatelic

Press" is one to the effect, that Dr. Magnus has not, as we had been given to understand, withdrawn from the editorship of the *Gazette*, but is, on the contrary, "as actively engaged thereon as ever." "The Spud Papers" are occupied this month with descriptions of forgeries of the 90 cents United States, the first 3 pfennige and the 10 neugroschen Saxon, and the Guatemala set. With respect to the former, the Rev. R. B. Earée pithily observes, "As regards general appearance, if the unlearned amateur meet with a copy coarsely perforated, on very white paper, with a very dark background, and a staring white cravat, he need not stop to enquire any further, but gently murmuring his watchword of 'Spiro,' he can pass on with untouched pockets." The two Saxon stamps should certainly be purchased only from well-known dealers. The forgeries are very fine, that of the 10 n.gr. being especially remarkable for its accuracy. The Guatemala imitations are respectable, but whereas the genuine stamp shows the sun, with eyes, nose, and mouth, and surrounded by 36 bright rays, in the forgeries the sun has only three dots, representing eyes and mouth, and there are 41 bright rays round it. "A few Words on the Stamps of New Granada" is the title of an article, by "Warden," treating of the period of currency of the 5 c. (1859) on *laid* paper, referred to by "Amateur" in our October number. The remaining contents of the number do not call for special notice.

Le Timbre-Poste for November opens with a strong list of novelties, followed by a short article on the Kotelnitsch stamps referred to elsewhere, and a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's valuable monograph on stamped envelopes. The number winds up with the following *nouvelle à sensation*: "Several times a rumour has reached us of the existence of a green 3 kr. stamp of the office of Thurn and Taxis. Our efforts to discover it having always proved fruitless, and no information of any kind being forthcoming, we have taken no notice of the report, preferring to wait until the opportunity might arise of testing its truth. The existence of the stamp is now confirmed by the produc-

tion of a specimen, which has been handed to us by Mr. Hans Jordan, accompanied by the following details:—"I remark that in your catalogue you do not mention a 3 kreuzer stamp of Thurn and Taxis, printed by error in green (instead of blue), on white paper, and that it has never been referred to in your journal. The stamp, however, may be found in several German albums and in Paris. I herewith enclose you one of a few specimens which I obtained some years since from a postal official. The stamp distributor having sold the greater part of the sheet of *green* 3 kr. in the evening, did not perceive the difference in colour, until the following day, when making up his books. The remainder was at once disposed of among collectors. I have seen in a Swiss collector's album this same 3 kr. green *obliterated*. The envelope, with the stamp on it just as it passed the post, has been preserved entire by him."

The American Journal of Philately.—The October number opens with a vindication of the suspected Ecuador stamps. "The two lower values," it says, "have come to us from several sources that render all doubts untenable." The number thus commenced, closes with the exposure of an attempt to swindle the publishers. They had received a letter signed "Mary E. Chase," reading as follows: "Sirs, I send you herewith a number of duplicate stamps for exchange. Please allow me all you can for them. I wish the following. * * * Send as soon as possible, and oblige." The answer—which Messrs. Scott have published, believing that had they posted it, it would not have found their lady correspondent—is cleverly put together, and will convince Mr. S. A. Taylor and his co-workers, that it is not so easy to "sell" philatelists with bogus varieties, as formerly. We give it in full for our readers' amusement.

Dear Miss? Our first surprise on receiving your letter was the extraordinary confidence you reposed in dealers whose address even you were unacquainted with. (It looks so charmingly innocent, you know.) But of course this was nothing to the surprise and pleasure with which we looked over the stamps you so kindly sent us to exchange for you. You are so liberal, you did not care much what you got for those beautiful St. Domingos; so charmingly innocent, that you did not notice you were sending us unchronicled varieties and values; so beautifully patient,

that you did not care what trouble you went to to make the stamps look nice and the bogus genuine; but do, please do, tell us what freak of youthful playfulness caused you to run a penstroke across that set Swiss? why did you change the colour of the proof of the 2 cent Canada from green to blue? We can understand your cleaning the cancellation off the Nevis, Austrian, and Peru; but why discolour the 2 centavos Lima stamp—don't the colour stand acid?

Why did you stick the genuine medio real St. Domingo black on pink above the counterfeit of the same value, blue on blue, and cancel them both together? and if you thought they would look better if one was torn, why did you tear the genuine? and that bogus dos reales blue on yellow stuck on a piece of a genuine letter! Please tell us how they managed to bend the cancelling stamp so as to stamp round the corner. If you had left the paper off the backs of the bogus St. Domingo, they would have looked much more natural, considering the company they were with, and it was only waste to put such a good stamp with the lot as the 10 c. red Confederate.

Next batch of St. Domingos you print, use thin paper, such as is always used on the Island; but first take a few lessons of S. A. T., and then be sure and do not send counterfeits to anyone over ten years old.

Will return the stamps after they have been on exhibition a short time.

J. W. SCOTT & CO.

In the article headed "Clippings," we observe the reprint of a notice issued by the Havana postmaster, warning the Cuban public that forged 50 c. de peseta stamps are in circulation, and giving four points of difference, by which they may be detected. They are of a lighter colour, the engraving is coarser, and the eyes of the portrait are badly drawn, the left being smaller than the right, and there being no trace of eyelids; lastly, the border surrounding the bust is shaded merely by a line. A collection of Spanish and Cuban forgeries which have passed the post would be an interesting one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ALLEGED USE OF GERMAN STAMPS IN SWITZERLAND.—RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF POST CARDS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, AND AUSTRIA.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Be good enough to affirm that the intelligence published by you in your October number (p. 151), on the authority of M. P. Mahé, to the effect, that, in consequence of a convention between Germany and Switzerland, the postage of letters from Switzerland to Germany had been reduced to 12½ centimes, and might be prepaid by means of German one-groschen stamps, is *totally unfounded*. The postage of a letter from Switzerland to Germany costs 25 centimes, and can only be prepaid in Swiss stamps. Letters otherwise stamped can only have passed the post untaxed, through their having been overlooked by the officials.

On the other hand, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany have given an international character to their respective post cards, by permitting their reciprocal transmission from one country to another, provided a supplementary adhesive stamp, of the value (as the case may be) of 5 centimes, $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen, or 2 kreuzers, be attached.

Dear Sirs,

Yours obediently,
A. R.

ROUMANIAN POST CARDS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the November number of your magazine, under "Newly-issued or Inedited Stamps," I notice a few mistakes concerning the number of Roumanian post cards issued, which allow me to correct by appending the following extract from an official letter I received from Bucharest on 14th October:—

"The white cards (which were only issued as an *elegant commencement*) have long since been used up. The decree authorised their issue (3000 single and 2000 double) for 13th June, and they just lasted until the end of that month, when they were followed by those now in use, of which 20,000 single and 10,000 double were prepared. This stock, too, will be exhausted in a few days, and replaced by a third issue, same type as first and present, only printed on finer card, of a rather yellower hue. 90,000 of these are already printed."

According to this, the second issue consisted of 30,000, instead of 45,000, as stated by M. Moens (from whom you quote); the third of 90,000, and not 70,000; and if the three issues are identical in type, how is it that M. Moens chronicles a third issue, "same as last, only arms smaller"? It may also be concluded from the above that the dates of issue were: 13th June, 1st July, and *about* 15th October (though I have not yet *seen* the third); and furthermore, that the third lot were *not* issued when M. Moens chronicled them in September.

Another, but an unofficial, correspondent informs me, in a letter dated 1st November, that on the 1st of January, 1874, "*Foreign Post Cards*,"—i.e., cards for *extra-provincial* correspondence,—will be issued. Let us hope they will be better looking than the present "inland" cards—at least, be printed on white.

I remain, yours truly,

A LONDON COLLECTOR.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have seen the third issue. The arms differ in the following points, 1st quarter, azure, not argent; ornaments between the supporters meet, instead of starting from centre; the motto is in one bend only; the mantle squarer at bottom; more folds at side, and the engraving of the whole altogether finer.

OBLITERATED COPIES OF RARE STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The answers to Mr. Killick's queries must be of interest to a great many, and I think I can give a little information that, if not new, may be comparatively unknown, but that which is useful will always bear repetition. As to the list of stamps which he never knew to have been seen used, two of the individuals do not fall under the category of postage stamps, viz.:

Great Britain. V. R.

Spain, 1857, 12 cuartos,

as both were essays, and never issued to the public.

Opinions are divided as to the claim of the 5 c. Connell to the name of postage stamp, as some maintain that it was never used, whilst others as firmly believe that it had a circulation of one or two days; and as a mere matter of opinion I incline to the latter view, and have seen what appeared to me a specimen authentically obliterated. It must be borne in mind that the Connell, as prepared for issue, and as stated to have been issued for the one or two days, was perforated by the same machine which operated on the legal issue. Consequently a Connell to be duly qualified as a postal (and not an essay) must show a like perforation as the rest of the series; those without perforation are essays, and many, if not all, are reprints.

Another stamp on the list which hardly seems to me to have a legal right to the name is the Hamburg 7 sch., imperf., *mauve*, for this seems to have been a proof, though nothing was to prevent its use on a letter so far as I can see.

Réunions I never remember to have seen obliterated; neither the early Bergeborfs, nor the Bolivia 500 c., *though this can in no way militate against them as postage stamps*.

Certain countries never (to my knowledge) used any "postmark" proper, but confined themselves exclusively to a pen-and-ink obliteration. Both Bolivar and *Fiji Times* are only known with pen-and-ink cancellations, and the same holds good with *Folima* and *Cundinamarca*, although Mr. Killick does not ask about these two last. The whole of the remaining stamps are known with genuine obliterations; and many, if not all, are extremely scarce, though the rarest of all is of course the twelpence Canada. Essays and reprints of this stamp are plentiful enough; the real old specimens issued to the public were upon paper similar to that used for the rest of the *pence* series, but there cannot be above a dozen known specimens in existence, if so many. The green 2 annas India, head in oval, is another invaluable stamp when found postmarked, but the specimens of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps, of the genuine issue of 1856, on blued paper, similar to our old penny (red) English, are equally rare.

In conclusion, I think the study of obliterated specimens is somewhat neglected. As the writer of "Notes for Collectors" justly observes, of many stamps we can learn nothing beyond what they teach us themselves, and the possession of curious or dated postmarks will often lead to the discovery of some fact unsuspected in the history of the stamp.

Yours faithfully,

Darlish.

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—These much slighted and little understood stamps seem, by degrees, to be attracting public favour, and the more they are studied and discussed, the more interesting do they appear to be. Of course there are in circulation impostors and mongrels, hitherto received by too confiding collectors, which should be weeded out from among the deserving candidates for a place in our albums; and, moreover, it cannot be denied that most of us have to be satisfied with reprints or close imitations of the, in some instances, almost unattainable originals. Still, with this drawback, and inferiority in intrinsic value—which,

• [We have seen a copy of the 15 c. with a pen-and-ink obliteration.—ED.]

however, if at all, can best be tolerated in a local—there is much left to interest and repay the persevering collector, and, it may be truly added, much also to puzzle any ordinary set of brains. One of the “reasons why,” which I, for one, have hitherto been unable to fathom to my own satisfaction, is the apparently meaningless inscription on some of the best accredited locals—PENNY POST—and yet no such coin as a penny is current in Uncle Sam’s territory. For instance, “Honour’s Penny Post,” “Blood’s Penny Post,” and several others equally authentic. I can only surmise that it is a sort of idiom adopted from the old country; yet our go-ahead transatlantic cousins are not, as a rule, given to copy our old-fashioned notions, but, on the contrary, are rather given to astonish us by novelty and startling progress. I do not recollect that where the words PENNY POST is inscribed, the price of postage is ever indicated (Californian locals excepted), but some one in this magazine informs us that when no amount is named, the postage is to be understood to be *one cent*. So here we have another anomaly, viz., a penny post carrying letters for a half-penny each. Truly, John Bull was more consistent; for in the olden times when, on account of the great size of London, the local post was charged twopence, it was called the Twopenny Post; while in the provincial districts the same service was charged a penny, and properly called the Penny Post. Perhaps some of your numerous readers can elucidate the matter, or explain away this apparent inconsistency.

Again, the remarks hitherto published on the trio of Blood’s, which for distinction’s sake I term the *acrobats*, are anything but satisfactory, to my mind, as regards the lithographer’s inscription compared with the name supposed to appear on the house in the left-hand corner. Mr. Atlee in his excellent notes on the United States Locals, declares the inscription at foot of No. III. (vol ix., p. 162), to be LITH. OF WAGNER AND MC QUIGAN, 100, CHESTNUT STREET, and at right-hand corner, J. SMITH. Now, it is a remarkable fact that this No. III. type is the only one of the three among the best class of reprints or imitations (a set of which has been in my collection for at least eight years) that has not this or a similar inscription. My No. III. has T. SINCLAIR’S LITH. unmistakably clear, and no name whatever to the right. My Nos. I. and II. types have LITH AT (not of I think), WAGNERS (here about six letters indistinct), 100, CHESTNUT ST. (not *street*); and at right-hand corner SCHMITT, OR SCHMIDT; and I must say it is much more likely that a man with the German name of Wagner should have a workman named Schmidt, instead of plain J. Smith.

To increase my perplexity, the writer on the article, “Postage Stamps at Auction” (vol. x., p. 49), asserts that the name SINCLAIR (not Sinclairs) is plainly visible on the house above ITHOGRAPH. Now it is remarkable that on Nos. I. and II., which alone have the word ITHOGRAPH, and possibly, though too indistinct to identify, SINCLAIR also, should be signed WAGNER, while No. III., which is signed T. SINCLAIR’S, is totally innocent of any inscription on the house.

Of course, writing as I do from reprints, or it may be worse, I labour under a great disadvantage in substantiating my assertions, and therefore they must be considered as mere suggestions rather than positive facts. However, I court inquiry, and ask for information.

Clifton.

FENTONIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SUBSCRIBER, Birmingham.—The 10 c. Confederate States, of which a specimen was given in the October number, was issued in 1863.

A. R.—We are much obliged for your list of the portraits on the Argentine stamps, as also for communication of Swiss official post card.

E. H., Eton College.—The 81 and 108 paras Moldavia are priceless; an original 240 c. Montevideo is worth probably 50/-; the other stamps named by you vary in value from a shilling to sixpence. Are you sure your Moldavia and Montevideo are genuine?

MR. M. ISAACS, Newport, Mon., says, in reference to Mr. Killick’s queries last month, that he has postmarked copies of the 7 sch. Hamburg imperf., the 2 anna green Indian, and the circular Moldavian. Is Mr. Isaacs quite sure that his circular Moldavian are genuine? Very few genuine copies of this issue are *known* to exist.

INCOGNITO.—1. The 5 c. adhesive Uruguay, with the letter omitted from the word *centesimo*, is one of several known varieties.—2. On again examining the specimen of the lately-issued 9d. Victoria, whence we described the type, we find it is watermarked 10; we cannot explain our quoting the watermark as 9 otherwise than as a slip of the pen.

H. J. H., Newham.—We have no hesitation in pronouncing your 2 rls. blue P. S. N. Co., postmarked with concentric circles, to be a forgery.—1. Probably the 4d. and 5s. English will appear sooner or later with coloured corner letters on white ground.—2. The assumption by Napoleon III. of the victor’s laurel crown followed on his successes against the Austrians in 1853.

A LONDON COLLECTOR.—We gladly accept your offer to communicate to us any information respecting newly-issued stamps, and tender you our best thanks for sending us the new Argentine values for inspection.—You speak of Hungarian cards which have been countermanded; is not this a clerical error? Do you refer to the *foreign* Roumanian post cards mentioned in the letter from you, which we publish?

CLAVERTHOUSE sends us an impressed halfpenny stamp, cut from a supplement of the *Illustrated London News*, issued in 1851. It has the crown and heraldic flowers in a mantle, with ONE above and HALFPENNY below. On the left-hand side is the name of the journal, and on the right the word SUPPLEMENT. The impression is in red, and is interesting as in some sort the forerunner of the halfpenny stamp, although we fancy that in reality the supplement of the paper could not have been sent alone through the post.

